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*Kenilworth*

FIRST FIFTY YEARS



VILLAGE OF KENILWORTH

1947



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## Foreword



THE present booklet arose from action of the board of trustees of the Village of Kenilworth, December 21, 1945, in appointing a citizens' committee to promote and arrange the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village, which had occurred February 4, 1896. The committee of twenty-nine persons was headed by the officers of the Kenilworth Historical Society, who assumed similar offices on the committee: Herbert B. Taylor, chairman; Mrs. Walter Marx, vice-chairman; Mrs. Harold W. McKenzie, secretary; Miss Dorothy Sears, historian.

Public participation began with a reception, Sunday afternoon, February 3, 1946, at the Kenilworth Club, at which were exhibited many photographs and mementoes of early Kenilworth. Several women wore dresses preserved from that former day. The attendance of several hundred citizens indicated the general keen interest in the anniversary celebration.

Still greater did it appear when an audience of 1,600 persons witnessed a picturesque and entertaining pageant portraying high lights in the history of the village, June 7, 1946. Pupils of the Joseph Sears school, under the directive genius of Superintendent Elmer Nygaard, recreated some of the episodes of the early days in costumes of the times, some of them preserved from that era.

The preparation of an illustrated historical map of Kenilworth is the generous contribution of Carey Orr.



## FOREWORD

As a permanent memorial of the celebration, the present booklet was prepared by a committee appointed by Chairman Herbert B. Taylor. This committee was composed of Mrs. Walter Marx, Mrs. Henry A. Zander, Mrs. F. R. Kilner, Herman Gastrell Seely, Oliver R. Barrett and the undersigned. It received the ready assistance of representatives of the various organizations in compiling the historical sketches of village groups contained herein. Old residents were generous in their efforts to verify data and to supply needed information, when visited by that indefatigable pair of interviewers, Miss Dorothy Sears and Mrs. F. R. Kilner. Of paramount value was the file of manuscripts, pamphlets, letters, clippings and books loaned by the Kenilworth Historical Society, as well as the private records of the Sears family.

The glimpses enjoyed of the life of our early villagers and the knowledge gained of the community's growth have made the assembling of this material a pleasure which it is hoped readers will share.

FREDERIC R. KILNER, *Chairman.*

# Forecast



IT IS appropriate to record a few paragraphs from the report of the first historian of the Kenilworth Historical Society, as they seem to forecast the pages which follow:

"There are, so far as this historian can judge, two ways of writing history. One is that which deals exclusively with the past, enabling the chronicler to deal largely with tradition, amplified by such documents and inscriptions, tablets and memorials as have been handed down the ages. \* \* \* The second method is that of assembling only known facts and chronicles which can be substantiated, adding the fewest possible observations. This plan seems on the whole to be the safest, although possibly less spectacular a history may result. \* \* \*

"With the first laying out of our town, we are lucky enough to have those with us who saw the first streets cut through the woodland, and those who, even before that, saw the dream on paper which was to blossom into the reality of today. Let these give us the authentic story of those early times. All I can vouch for is that Kenilworth was once a dream in the heart of a man. He wrote his poems with trees and shrubs; he made pictures out of squares of streets and ground, and he dotted his landscape with high lights of comfortable and beautiful homes. To these homes came people with like ideals to his own. They enjoyed the fresh winds from the lake, the beauty of our native elm woods, carpeted in those days with wildflowers. The long blue line of the

## FORECAST

lake was then the possession of every one before it was cut off by growing trees and the increasing number of houses. Innumerable wild birds haunted the place, and the little forest beasts were still unafraid. And the early settlers expected to live like all the good people in the fairy stories—happy ever after. \* \* \*

“The real Kenilworth began in 1889. As towns go we are still very young although we are built on old ground. Tradition says that this whole site was once a farm, and we perhaps are dwelling in the wood-lot of that farm. At any rate our history is in the making, and many of those whose privilege it will be to write the first chapters can speak from their own experience. There will be smiles and tears both in these pages, and deepest of our regrets will be this—that the Dreamer of the dream cannot be with us to see how it all worked out.

“So this first historian says Hail and Farewell! Farewell to the wildflowers and the birds, to the simplicity and intimate neighborliness of the little town as it was when she came bringing her hopes and youth and enthusiasm to the little rented house, the first house of her married life. And Hail to the ones who are coming, with their different ideas, but we hope some of the same ideals. You are changing things, whether you wish to or not. But change it however you may, you cannot take from us who came in the late nineties these priceless memories of a slower, more peaceful and more lovely little town. We who sit upon the sidelines salute you!”

ANNE HIGGINSON SPICER,  
*First Historian of the Kenilworth Historical  
Society. 1922.*

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# The Founding of Kenilworth



THE unique character of Kenilworth springs from the desire of its founder to combine in the community the atmosphere of the country and the convenience of the city. The early citizens developed their organizations and institutions to foster the spirit of home surroundings that made the village especially attractive to those whose first interest was their children.

Joseph Sears, like some other wealthy business men of Chicago in the 1880's, sought a summer home for his children in the rural area of the North Shore. Renting such a retreat in Glencoe, he used to ride on horseback over the stretch south to the borders of Evanston. At first he sought a farm, but subsequently conceived the possibility of a subdivision. The land for the purpose he found in the level area on the lake front between the villages of Winnetka and Wilmette, incorporated twenty years before.

The tract which he purchased had been assembled by Charles E. Simmons, then living in Oak Park, who was land commissioner of the Chicago and North Western railroad. It consisted of several farms between the railroad and the lake owned by John Schmitt, Jacob Schmitt, Angela Diversey and others. The last-named was the widow of Michael Diversi, or Diversey, who purchased 80.15 acres from the United States government in 1841 for \$100.19, shortly after the adjoining 159.13 acres had been bought from the government by one Timothy Sunderlin at the same price of \$1.25 per acre. This and much other interesting data on the land

titles is to be found in the 45-page printed copy of the abstract of title furnished to the original purchasers of Kenilworth home sites.

November 1, 1889, Joseph Sears purchased from Charles E. Simmons 208.6 acres, for \$135,000, a high price for an undeveloped subdivision tract, in those days and even now. The tract comprised Kenilworth east of the railroad between the North Road (now Winnetka Avenue) and the Daniel Mahoney farm, with the exception of a few acres in a narrow stretch along the Skokie ditch, which was acquired some time later, and a 15-acre tract on the northeast, which was purchased by Mr. Sears a few days later from Catherine and Adam Weckler for the consideration of \$15,300. Part of the Mahoney farm became, years later, the McGuire & Orr subdivision at the southern edge of Kenilworth, and the remainder became Mahoney Park upon the death of the two daughters and son of Daniel, by their gift to the village.

Recalling her first glimpse of the site of Kenilworth, Mrs. Joseph Sears, in a paper read at the first annual meeting of the Kenilworth Historical Society at her home in 1922, described it as "a thick tangle of woods reaching from the Mahoney farm to the North Road, then nothing more than a wagon track winding through the forest." "Along the lake was a cleared area under cultivation," she added; "a few frame houses and clumps of orchard trees still bear witness to the thrifty farms of the former occupants."

Those most familiar with the proposed village site, recollected Dr. Rufus B. Stolp, whose birthplace and boyhood home was in Wilmette, were the botany students from Northwestern University and the "cow boys" who pastured the animals of Grosse Pointe and Wilmette families in the woods now to be cleared for homes. While the boys gathered a cow or two into the herd from each dwelling they passed, they sometimes received a pail from a housewife in which to bring back raspberries or blackberries. In the fall they gathered butternuts, hickory and hazel nuts. Elmwood Avenue was known as North Avenue in Wilmette, and only

## THE FOUNDING OF KENILWORTH

a half-dozen homes lay between that village and Winnetka, mostly on the lake shore. Three of these stood alongside the gulley that descended to the beach from Sheridan Road, where Devonshire Lane is now. One was the home of George Kruse, which still stands at 329 Sheridan Road after being remodeled several times. (He soon moved to a house built for him on Ivy Court and lent much practical aid in village projects until his death in 1918.) In another, it is said, were sheltered 28 survivors of the *Lady Elgin*, wrecked off Winnetka's shore in September, 1860.

Shortly after the purchase of the land, the Kenilworth Company was formed, December 18, 1889. A summer spent in England several years before, and the memory of the lovely Warwickshire country, impelled Mr. Sears to choose the name of the community. The original members of the company were Joseph Sears, president; Ingolf K. Boyesen, vice-president; Charles S. Smith, secretary; William H. H. Sears, treasurer, and Joseph S. Mitchell. Later were added Frank P. Burnham and John J. Nutt as directors. The company continued until 1904, when Joseph Sears took over the outstanding stock and became sole owner of the remaining property.

Dr. Smith attended to the office and sales, Mr. Boyesen to the legal affairs, and W. H. H. Sears, brother of the president, superintended the improvements, which were launched immediately. Frank P. Burnham was the architect of the railroad station, the Kenilworth Union Church and many of the early homes.

By the summer of 1890 activity was lively. For the main thoroughfare, now Kenilworth Avenue, a straight line was drawn from the railroad station to the lake, to afford an unobstructed view of the blue waters to homecoming village fathers. Laying of pipes, paving of streets and planting of trees in the parkways followed rapidly. Up the road from the lake shore that is now Devonshire Lane came continual loads of sand for paving and fill, and the performance of the various teams of horses in hauling the

heavy loads up the bluff was a matter of rivalry among the drivers and the small boys who watched.

Within another year, according to the report of the company's secretary December 31, 1891, nearly three miles of main and lateral sewers had been laid, together with connecting stubs to some 200 lots. A water works had been built on the beach at the foot of Kenilworth Avenue, capable of supplying a population of 2,000 or more with filtered lake water, and three miles of distributing mains and their connecting supply pipes were in place. The slender cylindrical water tower just west of Sheridan Road and north of Kenilworth Avenue was a conspicuous landmark. A gas works with a capacity of 80,000 cubic feet daily was in operation at the extreme northwest corner of the village, together with three miles of gas mains and their connections. Two and one-half miles of macadam streets—the first on the North Shore—had been paved, as well as more than three miles of concrete sidewalks. The streets were sprinkled on occasion, and they were lighted at night by gas lamps of "boulevard" type. Three houses for as many employees of the village were built on Ivy Court. A store building stood where the northbound platform of the North Shore electric road is today.

More pretentious evidence of progress was seen. The stone railroad station was of unusual and attractive design. The beach at the foot of the chief avenue had been protected by breakwaters, and the high bluff graded and sodded in places.

Kenilworth Hall had been built (now remodeled into a residence at 303 Cumnor Road) for the accommodation of Mrs. Babcock's young ladies' and children's school, which had been opened, "furnishing to local pupils and many from neighboring towns very superior educational opportunities and providing a most delightful school home to a number of boarding pupils, who are cared for in Mrs. Babcock's residence, adjoining the school and built for the express purpose." A boys' school had just been begun,



## THE FOUNDING OF KENILWORTH

its three pupils receiving instructions in the Sears home the preceding year.

Post office, express office, telegraph office and public and private telephones were in operation. A store building was planned.

These improvements and institutions were enjoyed by families in twelve homes, then built and occupied. Two more were under construction, and another dozen were projected for the following year. The houses first built, for which Frank P. Burnham was the architect, may be recognized today, in several cases, by the yellow sandstone masonry.

In a small brochure of sixteen pages and cover, issued by the Kenilworth Company at about this time, were presented halftone reproductions of actual photographs of the principal homes that had then been erected and occupied. The booklet, entitled "Kenilworth Homes," gave the village the title, "The North Shore Suburb." The photographs reproduced bore evidence of the abundance of "noble forest trees," of paved streets and sidewalks, and of "boulevard" street lamps.

The present-day addresses (there were no numbers then and the present street names were given several years later) of those first twelve residences and the names of their first owners follow—all still standing except where otherwise noted:

William H. H. Sears, 354 Kenilworth Avenue.

Charles S. Smith, 339 Kenilworth Avenue.

Frank P. Burnham, 37 Kenilworth Avenue.

Mrs. Mary Keyes Babcock, 309 Cumnor Road (razed).

Dr. Charles Adams, 165 Sheridan Road (burned).

Joseph Sears, 517 Sheridan Road (burned 1945).

George Ellsworth Holmes, 414 Essex Road.

Howard H. Spaulding, 336 Abbotsford Road.

John Y. Calahan, 330 Cumnor Road.

Rollin A. Keyes, 140 Melrose Avenue.

Guy F. Gosman, 423 Abbotsford Road.

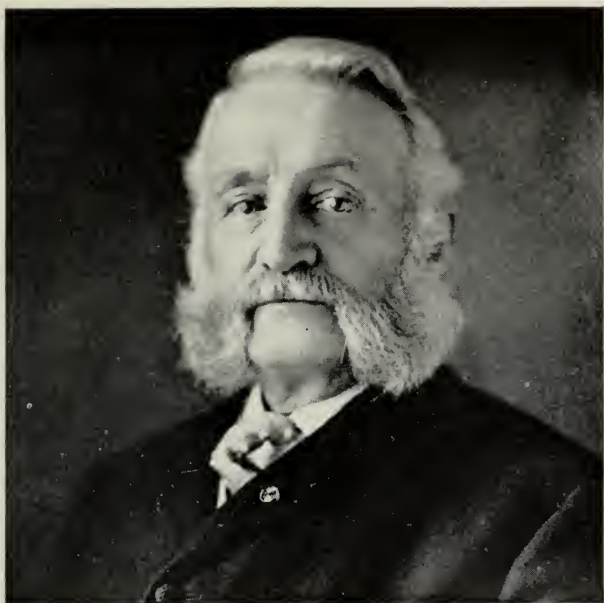
Benjamin P. Hinman, 241 Kenilworth Avenue (razed).



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Homes other than those named above indicated on the historical map that accompanies this volume are 521 Roslyn, home of Francis Lackner, first president of the park board; 220 Melrose, James Culbertson, first village and first Kenilworth Club president; 241 Melrose, A. V. Martin, first church board president; 255 Melrose, village trustee Edgar Barratt's home, sold to Judge Eastman, last meeting place of the Neighbors in a home; 165 Kenilworth, John Benham's home, first house built for a tenant; 424 Warwick, George Maher, famous town planner and architect, and his son Philip Brooks Maher, also a noted architect; 326 Essex, Frank Root, loveliest of homes designed by Paul Starrett (519 Warwick designed for his bride, Therese Hinman), who later built, among other famous structures, the Flatiron building, Empire State building and Pennsylvania terminal in New York, and Lincoln Memorial in Washington; 312 Essex, "Tilfredschaden," garden showplace of poetess Anne Higginson Spicer and her husband Vibe Spicer, engineer and inventor; 320 Abbotsford, banker Harry Hall, first village clerk; 433 and 415 Cumnor, Edward Bideleux and Wilson Low homes, early occupied by Taylor brothers, Harry and William, including six little Taylors; 423 Cumnor, Dr. Rufus Stolp, son of Dr. Byron Stolp, pioneer Wilmette physician, and founder president of Kenilworth Historical Society.

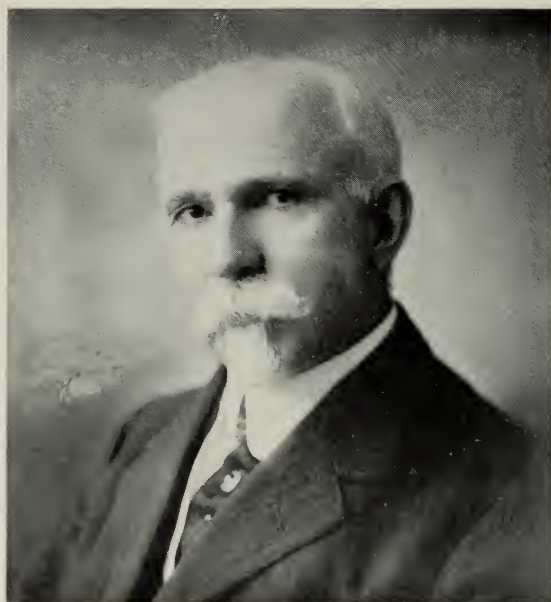
The deeds by which the home owners acquired their lots contained rigid restrictions, to preserve the character of the town as visioned by its planners. The lots were of large size; the majority were 100 by 175 feet, and the others varied a few feet in either dimension according to the exigencies of the plat. No alley marred the subdivision. High standards were maintained in the construction of the homes. Business structures were to be similarly regulated, so that the entire town might maintain a homogeneous character and the haphazard construction of the usual subdivision might be prevented. These restrictions were incorporated in the village zoning ordinance years later.



*Joseph Sears*



*The Home of Joseph Sears*



*James A. Culbertson*



*Children's Exercises in Culbertson Gymnasium at Union Church*



## THE FOUNDING OF KENILWORTH

Such an attempt in town planning received widespread attention, and during the Chicago world's fair Kenilworth was visited by many famous architects, including Frederick Law Olmsted, noted landscape planner. The attention of men of means seeking a desirable place of residence was drawn to Kenilworth. The man who was to be the first village president and to contribute in many ways to its progress, James A. Culbertson, inspected the development, seeking a home nearer his lumber interests at Menominee than his earlier home in Kentucky. With Mrs. Culbertson he made the trip to Kenilworth from Chicago under the guidance of Dr. C. S. Smith, secretary of the Kenilworth Company. "A few days later," Dr. Smith related years afterward, "Mr. Culbertson called at the office and, in his characteristic manner, put the following unusual question:

"Doctor, I intend to make Kenilworth my home, and how am I to feel sure that all of the promises which you have made in regard to the high character, the restrictions and maintenance of the property will be fulfilled? Do you know of any reason why I should not make this investment?"

Dr. Smith answered: "I don't believe any such question was ever asked a real estate man before, and all I can say, Mr. Culbertson, is that I have not very much money, but all I have is invested in Kenilworth, because I believe in Mr. Sears."

The substance of such faith was evident in another anecdote related by Dr. Smith. In 1891 Mr. Sears invited about twenty of his personal friends, prominent bankers and business men of Chicago, to a picnic luncheon on the shore of Kenilworth, "then in a crude and chaotic state of development." One guest asked the price of the property on which the picnickers were gathered. Mr. Sears referred the question to Dr. Smith, who said the price was \$60 per foot. Inasmuch as similarly located property both north and south of Kenilworth was selling at \$15 per foot, the answer

created laughter. But within twelve months the property was sold at \$60 per foot and later became worth \$250 per foot.

Another dozen homes were built in 1892 and fourteen more in 1893, besides the Rugby School and Kenilworth Union Church. Only two were constructed in 1894, probably a reflection of the depression of '93. But activity increased in 1895 and eight dwellings were completed.

Progress toward community activity showed itself in various ways. A volunteer fire department was organized, but complaint appeared that only four or five citizens turned out for drill, while Wilmette mustered twenty regulars. In 1892 twenty-six residents shared the cost of police protection at \$2 per month. In 1894 the first garbage collection was undertaken, at \$3 per year for each household.

As will appear in subsequent pages, clubs were formed for the earnest and the sportive, for study and for recreation, antedating the formation of the Kenilworth Club in 1894 and the Neighbors in 1895.

The latter organization was responsible for the present names of the streets. Upon the request of Mr. Sears and the village trustees, members of the Neighbors, meeting at the home of Mrs. Charles Adams in 1899, selected English and Scotch names for the thoroughfares, most of them from Sir Walter Scott's novel, "Kenilworth." Before that time the streets crossing Kenilworth Avenue were named for American authors. Lowell avenue became Abbotsford, Irving avenue became Essex, and Hawthorne was renamed Warwick. Raleigh Road was rejected for Richmond Road for fear, as it faced the tracks, it might be nicknamed "Trolley Road."

That year the village was trolley conscious. The Chicago and Milwaukee—now the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee railroad—had built the tracks of its electric line to the boundaries of Kenilworth on the north and south. Passengers were obliged to



## THE FOUNDING OF KENILWORTH

leave the cars at either boundary of the village and walk one-half mile to the other terminus in order to continue their journey. The terms of a franchise were long debated, but finally in 1899, after a session of the village board lasting until 6:30 in the morning, the ordinance was passed and this long inconvenience ended.

In this era began an organization that, by voluntary subscription, for many years supplemented the work of corporate governing bodies in maintaining the unusual character of Kenilworth. Under the presidency of its founder, J. A. Culbertson, the Kenilworth Improvement Association filled the flower boxes at the railroad station and the urns at Kenilworth Avenue and Sheridan Road, planted in the parkways along Kenilworth Avenue the evergreens that now show their old age, cut the weeds and cleared the rubbish from vacant lots, and financed an annual clean-up day. While the park commissioners and the village board gradually took over such functions, the association continued—under the succeeding presidents, Otto Owen, W. F. Freudenreich and Herman C. Hintzpeter—until 1933. The final funds, no contributions being solicited in 1932, were expended in planting elm trees on either side of Sheridan Road in the parkways fronting on Mahoney Park, then being developed.

Through the association began the work of public-spirited citizens in acquiring property defaced by old shacks, livery stables and garages west of the tracks, chiefly on the muddy alley that was called for a time Railroad Avenue and now Green Bay Road. That led to the formation of the Kenilworth Realty Association, which carried the atmosphere of the village west of the railroad to the Ridge.

As early as 1898 requests were made for the annexation to Kenilworth of the unincorporated territory west of the railroad. Subdivisions comprising small lots and without building restrictions had been opened to the north of the North Shore Golf Club. Repeatedly the requests for annexation were denied. When real

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

estate subdivisions began bidding for the forty acres of the golf club, it was feared a larger area might be given over to unwelcome subdivisions. In this crisis forty-eight Kenilworth citizens put \$292,800 into the Kenilworth Realty Association, the largest part of which was for the purchase of the golf club tract and the remainder was used to obtain title to the ill-improved properties mentioned above. Formed in 1920, the association's executive committee was composed of L. M. Willis, chairman; Charles D. Howe, secretary; E. F. Hamm, treasurer, A. W. Hannah, Joseph Joyce and Fred D. Breit. Present officers are H. C. Hintzpeter, president; W. F. Freudenreich, treasurer, and Leon T. Ellis, secretary.

From the golf course was formed the Kenilworth Community Development, with curving streets and spacious lots, most of them 80 by 165 or 100 by 165 feet. Building restrictions were maintained, parkways planted and much aid given in carrying out the village plan of 1922. Little of the property remains unsold, but only \$193,822 has been returned to the investors in a quarter century, so that their contribution to the community has been very real financially.

## Joseph Sears



**J**OSEPH SEARS, the founder of Kenilworth, was born in Lockport, Illinois, March 24, 1843, the son of Maranda Blount and John Sears, Jr. Both his father and his father-in-law, Samuel Stedman Barry, were early settlers in Chicago, coming from Bristol, New York, and Salem, Massachusetts, respectively, in 1837.

During the Civil War, Mr. Sears served first as commissary sergeant of the 134th Illinois Infantry and later became regimental quartermaster, with rank of first lieutenant, of the 147th Illinois Infantry.

When the war was over he returned to marry Helen Stedman Barry. Their children, six in number, were John Barry, Philip Rassalas, Helen Abigail, Marion Louise (died in infancy), Joseph Alden, and Dorothy.

In 1868, Mr. Sears entered the employ of N. K. Fairbank, with whom his father had had business connections, and became a partner in 1872. In 1880, when the company was incorporated, he was made its vice-president and so served until it was sold in 1889.

It was at that time that Mr. Sears became interested in forming a company to purchase the land now known as Kenilworth.

Mr. Sears died in 1912 in his home at 517 Sheridan Road. His widow and family remained in Kenilworth, at 417 Warwick Road, until Mrs. Sears' death in 1932. The old home burned in 1945, and the little log playhouse on the property, which had

been moved from the city home in 1895, was moved again to the home of Joseph Alden Sears in Northbrook for the enjoyment of his children.

In 1911, when Mr. Sears returned from a trip to Europe, where he sought to regain his health, his homecoming was made a heart-warming event by the citizens of Kenilworth, who arranged a bank of American Beauty roses in his home and there presented him with a beautifully bound leather book, the signature of every villager following this illuminated tribute:

"Kenilworth is your creation. It is the quality of your personality that has attracted here souls kindred to your own and bound them to you as with bonds of steel. In it all you have demonstrated your superiority and made possible a community of homes imbued with your spirit, enriched by your labors, and aglow with goodwill. Most that you have done has been for others, and there flows back to you a wealth of appreciation and affection that is constant and abounding."

# Reminiscences of Early Days



**G**LIMPSES of the activities of early days are afforded in extant copies of a few of the issues of *The Kenilworth News*, published each Saturday during 1893 by the 12-year-old editor and proprietor, John H. Sears. Four pages,  $7\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$  inches, carried a front page of news and nearly three pages of advertisements, chiefly of North Shore stores and contractors, though an illustrated corset offer was prominent. The Kenilworth Store and the Kenilworth Livery and Boarding Stables were the only local advertisers. Advertising rate, 10 cents per inch.

For September 17, 1893, was announced the organization of a Sunday School at the Kenilworth Chapel. Rugby School opened September 13 with the names of twenty-nine boys, of which eleven were from Kenilworth and eighteen from other North Shore towns. Two weeks later the candidates for the football team were reported, and the formation of the Athletic Association was announced, with Rufus Stolp, president, and Philip Sears, secretary and treasurer.

A grand concert was given for the benefit of the church fund, October 26. The Ladies' Society was formed November 13, with Mrs. Sturges, president, Mrs. Ware, vice-president, and Mrs. Smith, secretary. A meeting of the young married people was called November 15, and Mrs. Babcock kindly offered Kenilworth Hall for the business meeting; it was decided to meet every other Friday evening, an initiation fee of \$3 was set, and dancing and singing concluded the evening.



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The Dancing Club held its regular hop Thursday evening, December 21, at Kenilworth Hall, the music provided by the Kenilworth Orchestra, which made its first appearance. This organization, according to club meeting announcements, met every other Thursday evening, the Pleasure Club every other Saturday night, the Ladies' Literary Society every other Monday evening, and the Boys' Club every other Saturday evening. The Music Club met Tuesday evenings in homes, most often the Hinman and Sears music rooms, an unusually gifted group residing in the new suburb.

The wedding of John Haslam and Laura Derickson, November 15, was reported. Invitations were out for that of Frank L. Olmstead, the Rugby schoolmaster, and Mabelle Weeks, at the bride's home at Boston, November 27.

Numerous paragraphs recorded personal comings and goings. The reason is not plain for the editorial statement in one issue: "The editor wishes it clearly understood that he is the only one responsible for the quality and character of the News. While the paper is published at Rugby School, it merely takes the place of bench work in the regular course of study, and is not a publication of the school. We hope that our youth, twelve years, will entitle us to some degree of leniency on the part of our subscribers. We will do the best we can, but can hardly hope to be abreast the professional standard."

\* \* \*

"Early in 1890," writes Phil Sears, "with Cousin Joe visiting Uncle Will Sears while the town was building, we made arrangements with the railroad to flag certain trains after dark with a kerosene lantern."

\* \* \*

"December, 1890," wrote Mrs. Charles Smith, "the foundation for the railway station was just begun, and the railroad stopped one train in the morning at 9:00 to take Doctor into Chicago and stopped one train which left Chicago at 5:15 to bring him out."

\* \* \*

## REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DAYS

"In 1890-91, while our home was building," wrote Ethel Babcock Williams, "we were obliged to obtain a permit at the Wells Street station, allowing the one o'clock funeral train, a ride of fifty minutes, to stop." By January, 1892, frequent trains stopped. In 1938, the 5:48 was the first nonstop train.

\* \* \*

"Until the establishment of the Union Church," wrote Ethel Babcock Williams, "we had a bus come from Schwall's Livery in Wilmette every Sunday morning to drive us to the Evanston Church. When the load of girls from Kenilworth Hall dismounted in front of St. Mark's it was an event of such interest to the choir boys that one Sunday when the snow was too heavy for a bus and they sent a very large sleigh in the shape of a scarlet swan, the girls persuaded mother to have the driver stop near Davis Street so they might be spared the smiles of the boys who were generally lined up along the sidewalk awaiting our arrival."

\* \* \*

The Skokie was a ditch first dug by early farmers to drain large areas of marsh land around Kenilworth. It ran through the lots west of the school. Mr. Sears, wishing to sell these lots for homes, asked Mr. Baker about the possibility of changing the course of the Skokie. Mr. Baker and Mr. Finnigan went to work on the problem. As a result, the Skokie water now runs through pipes six feet in diameter under the first grade and the kindergarten rooms of the Sears school.

\* \* \*

"The consternation of Joseph Sears and his associates was great," wrote Mrs. Charles Smith of the flood in 1892, "when the flood covered the entire area of their new development for several feet. The downpour occurring at five o'clock, husbands were carrying their spouses, who drove to meet them at the station, to the front door stoop, and village boys, to their horror, were sailing from the lake in their boats. Frank Burnham, rowing from his



house on the bluff at the lake to the station in a dory, played 'Lohengrin' on a cornet, with an escort of swimming dogs. Helen Sears and May Hinman, paying their first formal call, had to remain all night." "The Skokie," recalls Miss Hinman, "overflowed its banks, completely filling the culvert that should have carried it under Sheridan Road, racing across Sheridan in a grand torrent. 'Mark Martin,' the A. V. Martins' dog, was sucked down into the culvert, but to our amazement emerged with no ill effects—Kenilworth's first submarine."

\* \* \*

Anne Higginson Spicer, village poetess, wife of Vibe Kieroff Spicer, engineer and inventor, was the originator of the garden club idea in Kenilworth, her home grounds at 312 Essex, then extending to Woodstock, being the garden show place of the North Shore. In "Songs of the Skokie" and "Crookshire Lad," one breathes the air of her beloved village. One of her poems was to become the theme of the cantata "The Last Crusade," which was set to music by John Philip Sousa. Her pen name "Anchusa" appeared beneath her book reviews. With her husband she was the originator of the Arts and Craft Society, working in pottery, copper, brass and wood, their exhibitions to bring national fame to Kenilworth.

\* \* \*

The main highway between North Shore villages in 1890 was Ridge Road. A dirt road along the lake front was known as Lake Shore Road. It was macadamized through the village by the Kenilworth Company when homes were built there and later was renamed Sheridan Road. April 14, 1917, marked its completion as a concrete drive from Chicago to the northernmost limits of Kenilworth. Several hundred Chicagoans, including Mayor Thompson and ex-Governor Deneen, met the North Shore delegation. Virginia Little, chosen by Village President Bull, broke the bottle of champagne to christen the concrete pavement in Kenilworth, amid bombs bursting and flags flying.

\* \* \*

## REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DAYS

Early celebrations of the Fourth of July were on residents' lawns, with speeches and music. In 1897 the Kenilworth Club provided funds for a village day-long observance, including flag raising and a parade of decorated bicycles, tricycles and tandems. A tennis tournament on courts near the Rugby School decided the village championship. Contests took place on the beach and later on the school play field. In the evening the entire population gathered on the beach for fireworks and to hear the village quartettes.

\* \* \*

The first edition of the North Shore Directory, listing residents of Evanston, Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka and Glencoe, published by the Evanston Index Co. in 1904, contained the names of 271 persons in Kenilworth. "Domestics" were included, but not children. House numbers were then existent only in Evanston and Wilmette, being adopted in Kenilworth in 1918. So the first entry ran thus: "Allen Leon M (Katherine B wife) ws Abbottsford Road 1st n Woodstock av tel 674, G P A Rock Island R R, La Salle station, Chicago, tel Harrison 4676."

\* \* \*

Mail carrier service was instituted in Kenilworth in August, 1926. The first carriers were Elmer Anderson and James Montanaro.

\* \* \*

The frame building which housed the original company store, removed from south of Kenilworth Avenue some years earlier, was torn down in 1933 and a garden planted on the site. A portion of the old store was remodeled to house the neighboring confectionery store and North Shore ticket office. The brick store building adjoining was remodeled for use as the village office and police headquarters.

\* \* \*

The village expense budget, recalled Charles Ware in 1931, was \$1,600 in 1896, \$1,890 in 1900 and \$4,000 in 1906. (Vil-

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

lage expenditures for the year ending April 30, 1947, were \$96,095.)

\* \* \*

First birth in Kenilworth was that of Kathleen Smith, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Smith, 339 Kenilworth Avenue, on March 17, 1891; she died August 25, 1891. First twins born here were Beatrice and Florence (Beggie and Todgie) Pease, 519 Warwick Road, July 6, 1900.

\* \* \*

Because a population of 300 was required by state law for the incorporation of a village, the hope of soon attaining that goal rested on the expected arrival of two babies when autumn arrived in 1895. In December, John D. Haslam made the count 299 and Manierre B. Ware, 300. Incorporation papers were filed promptly, and Kenilworth became a village February 4, 1896.

# Village Progress



FROM the time of its founding until incorporation, February 4, 1896, the village functions of Kenilworth were carried on by the Kenilworth Company under Joseph Sears. The company organized and operated the water works and gas supply systems. Fire protection was furnished by a volunteer fire department. The extent of police protection was a private service to which householders in the village subscribed. Taxation and other governmental functions were carried on by New Trier township, formed in 1850 and including north shore villages north, south and west.

Upon incorporation, February 4, 1896, J. A. Culbertson was elected village president; Henry A. Hall, village clerk, and J. Y. Calahan, George Cutter, R. A. Keyes, George A. McClellan, W. H. Sears and A. M. Stearns, trustees. J. Warren Pease was appointed village attorney and Edward D. Parmalee, village treasurer. The village board controlling our local affairs is similarly organized today.

Territory west of the tracks was not included in the original incorporation of the village. Property owners in that section petitioned for annexation several times, but the proposal was defeated at the polls until 1920. The favorable vote at that time was influenced by plans for annexation of the tract to the villages to the north and south, which caused apprehension that their zoning might permit undesirable industrial and commercial use of the frontage along West Railroad Avenue (now Green Bay Road).

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Subdivisions had already been opened in a part of the territory, with narrow lots and low-cost buildings, which prevented development there of the same type as in the older part of the village.

To meet the problem, the village board appointed the Kenilworth Plan Commission under authority of the state law, and in 1922 adopted the plan prepared, sketches of which are to be seen at the village office. Some of the projects recommended in the plan have been completed, some have been carried out in a modified form because of changed conditions and others are in abeyance.

In 1922 and 1923 sanitary sewers, water mains and sidewalks were installed in the annexed territory, although the streets were not paved until 1931.

The tract of forty acres previously occupied by the North Shore Golf Club was annexed and developed in 1924. The following year Park Drive was widened and paved. Extending and paving Kenilworth Avenue (then Coventry Road) through the garage district southwest of the railroad station was begun in 1928, financed by a special assessment against the property in the vicinity of the improvement. At the same time, the remaining land in the old garage district was condemned, through a general fund bond issue authorized by popular vote, for future use as a site for a village hall and fire station—the triangular tracts at Green Bay Road and Kenilworth Avenue. The Kenilworth Realty Association assisted in this project by donating its holdings in the garage district.

In 1928, also, the new Kenilworth Avenue railroad crossing was opened and paved, while the old narrow crossing to the south was abandoned.

Widening Green Bay Road, after revision of earlier and more ambitious plans, was completed in 1931. Parking areas on the west side of the tracks were paved and were landscaped in accordance with recommendations of the garden clubs. The garden clubs aided in landscaping the parkway of Park Drive. There, in 1932,



the Neighbors planted a George Washington Memorial elm tree in connection with the nation-wide Washington bicentennial celebration.

Accompanying the work of the Kenilworth Plan Commission, studies were made which resulted in the adoption, in 1923, of a zoning ordinance, incorporating many of the private restrictions already in effect in the original development of Kenilworth and establishing new restrictions in the recently annexed territory. In 1929 the village board established the Kenilworth architectural commission, with the same membership as the zoning board of appeals, to recommend a general style of architecture for business buildings—confined to lots fronting on Green Bay Road. Recommended was "the English style of architecture," the precise meaning of which is still debated before the board, though the intent has been consistently carried out.

Kenilworth was the leader in another form of community improvement when, in 1907, Joseph Sears constructed an electric power generating and distributing system. All electric light cables and wires were carried in underground conduits, to avoid unsightly poles and wires in parkways. This innovation was disapproved as impractical and too expensive by Samuel Insull, then a resident of Kenilworth. But by the time Mr. Sears sold the electric light franchise to the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois, Mr. Insull was so convinced of the merits of underground conduits that he is said to have paid more than the sum asked by Mr. Sears (only what the installation cost him), saying that something should be paid for the risk in such an original venture. Under the franchise granted to the Chicago Telephone Co. in 1898 and later renewed, some telephone lines are underground, but most of them are on poles along rear lot lines.

The gas works which Mr. Sears had established at the time of founding the village was also sold, with the village franchise, to

the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois and then torn down.

By 1925 the original water works—a kerosene-engined pump in the wooden building on the beach at Kenilworth Avenue—was inadequate for the increased population. The storage tank in the tower on Sheridan Road held only 29,000 gallons and occasionally ran dry. So the village purchased the water system from the Sears' heirs. In the spring of 1926 electrically-driven centrifugal pumps were installed, a 200,000 gallon elevated storage tank was erected in the northwest part of the village and rehabilitation of the distributing system was undertaken. By 1929 a new pumping station and filtration plant was put in operation in the modern brick building on the beach, all provided by the issuance of water certificates payable only out of water revenues without any increase in rates. Further enlargement was made in 1940, by WPA labor, through the construction of a storage basin for filtered water with a capacity of 125,000 gallons.

When the village acquired the water works and beach property, the bathing beach continued to be operated by the Kenilworth Club for the citizens of the village. The expense was divided between the club and the village until 1930, when it was entirely assumed by the latter, the annual fees paid by the village families for beach tickets defraying most of the annual cost. In the new water works building, space was set aside for a public bath house, equipped by the club and maintained by the village. A sheet-steel jetty extending into the lake from the water works was built in 1930, after severe storms had done considerable damage to the beach and to the pier to the south in 1929. Receding of the lake level caused postponement of other plans for shore protection made at that time. But the 11-year cycle brought a high lake level again, so high that the narrow beach to the south of the water works became virtually unusable, and in 1943 the village purchased, at a cost of \$8,000, 175 feet of lake frontage north of the





*Kenilworth Cadets at Drill*



*Looking West on Kenilworth Avenue from Beach*



*Looking East on Kenilworth Avenue, from Union Church  
to Water Tower*



*Golf and Skating Shelter on Leicester Road*



*Pump House and Observation Platform on  
Kenilworth Beach*

## VILLAGE PROGRESS

water works, with a wide sandy beach for enlargement of the bathing facilities.

For fire protection dependence was entirely on a volunteer brigade drawing apparatus by hand, usually too little and too late, until an agreement was made with Wilmette in 1923 and then with Winnetka in 1929 whereby fire calls are answered by the trained firemen and excellent equipment of the fire department there.

Though the private protection of early days had been replaced by a police department, this consisted in 1921 only of the chief, a motorcycle patrolman by day and a policeman to answer calls at night. Two additional night policemen were employed that year to patrol the streets in a squad car, paid for by popular subscription the first season, but out of general taxes thereafter. Crime prevention has become the primary activity of the department, which now consists of a chief, two lieutenants and six policemen, with a two-way radio system and two squad cars equipped with radio.

Gas street lamps were first succeeded by the present street lights in 1923 on Abingdon Avenue and Robsart Road, paid for by subscriptions from the owners of abutting properties. Public request brought the installation of an electric street-lighting system, with underground cables, throughout the village in 1926 under special assessment proceedings.

Until 1920 no village office was maintained, and the books and documents relating to governmental affairs were kept in the residences of the village officers and committee chairmen. When Felix L. Streed was employed as the first village manager, desk space was provided for him in a tailor shop at 409 Richmond Road. When the post office moved to larger quarters in 1923, its former space at 417 Richmond Road was rented for use as a village office and police headquarters. There the center of village activities has continued. C. M. Osborn succeeded to the office of village manager December 20, 1936.



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

In February, 1939, the Kenilworth Citizens' Advisory Committee was organized, with the adoption of a constitution and by-laws. Thus formal recognition was given to the service of what previously had been a loosely organized committee of citizens occasionally called together to discuss community problems. The committee meets annually or oftener on the call of its president. It consists of the presidents and immediate past presidents of the civic and similar organizations of the village. Its purposes are (1) to coordinate civic effort, (2) to act as a nonpartisan committee to suggest candidates to fill the offices of the village, the school board and the park board, and (3) to make effective the cooperation of all boards and organizations engaged in civic development of the village.

The present village board consists of Anan Raymond, president; Roland D. Feltman, Harry W. Lindsey, Jr., Lyle W. Richmond, Murdo Ross, Thompson M. Wakeley and Henry C. Hassel. Other village officers are Carl L. Kirk, clerk; Vernon R. Loucks, attorney; George H. Rigler, treasurer, and C. M. Osborn, manager.

Outstanding citizens have occupied the office of village president, usually for several terms, as follows: J. A. Culbertson, 1896-7; R. A. Keyes, 1897-9; George A. McClellan, 1899-1900; Edgar G. Barratt, 1900-2; Robert H. Van Schaack, 1902-3; William H. Isom, 1903-7; Charles Ware, 1907-9; Victor C. Sanborn, 1909-11; Henry Taylor, Jr., 1911-15; Charles R. Bull, 1915-17; William W. Wheelock, 1917-19; Frank R. Young, 1919-21; James C. Murray, 1921-27; Ralph R. Hawxhurst, 1927-33; Harry P. Harrison, 1933-40; Robert O. Berger, 1940-45; Anan Raymond, 1945.

# Parks and Playgrounds



“THIS paradise along the railroad,” north shore commuters and the Chicago Tribune of 1893 described Kenilworth, its station set in a grove of native oaks and elms. “Your Garden of Eden,” twitted the English friend of Joseph Sears, recalling letters picturing a dream village as he saw houses near the lake rising from treeless meadows along avenues of elm saplings. Virgin woods and meadows provided the parks of the early residents, playgrounds for their children and pastures for their cows.

To insure the enjoyment of the lake front to the community, the Kenilworth Company in 1898 deeded to the village 980 feet of beach south of Devonshire Lane to be known as Lake Shore Park, reserving only the right to remove gravel through the lane, a right forfeited in 1914. But little used, this narrow stretch of beach, except for 175 feet north of the lane, was sold in 1929 for riparian rights attaching to the lots fronting on Sheridan Road, and the Kenilworth Club was relieved of the increasing expense of maintaining the beach playground at the foot of Kenilworth Avenue, although continuing to operate it. Over the waterworks a beach house was built. In 1943, to compensate for the loss of beach to the south because of the high water line, 175 feet of lake frontage was purchased north of the waterworks and developed as a beach park, the summer recreation ground of residents today.



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Stores adjacent to railroad stations formed the pattern of the early days, but to Kenilworth in 1893 had come George Maher, architect and town planner, his hobby park railroad entrances. Hearing that, upon the granting of the North Shore Railroad franchise of 1899, the company store, then located where passengers now alight from the northbound North Shore trains, was to be moved to the northeast corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Richmond Road, he hurried home from a New York trip to add his voice to that of protesting villagers, of the opinion that this corner was eventually to be a park. Joseph Sears placed the store 200 feet north of the corner, and in 1900 deeded to the village the small corner areas, to have erected thereon the circling stone benches and urns about the fountain at the intersection, designed by George Maher from funds made possible by the advantageous franchise.

As early as 1891 the northwest corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Cumnor Road had been sold and later was a number of times resold. Civic pride ran high when, toward the close of 1905, it was learned a store was to be built thereon, villagers suddenly realizing that provision must be made looking toward the future if Kenilworth was to continue the dream of its founder. Working against time, several villagers contributed funds to buy the debated corner, to hold until February 26, 1906, when an election was held for the organization of the Kenilworth Park District.

The five commissioners elected drew lots for length of term: Francis Lackner, 5 years, and therefore chosen president; A. Shreve Badger, 4; George Maher, 3; William Isom, 2; Victor Sanborn, 1. The president appointed two members as a finance committee and two as a park committee. Two villagers were annually to be appointed by the board as secretary and as treasurer. Meetings were to be held on call of the president, and expenditures were allowed on the vote of three. So through the years the board has

## PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

continued, except for the change, in 1923, to the election of commissioners on the odd years for 6-year terms.

Within the province of the park board fall provision for its elections, raising of taxes for construction and maintenance and interest on bonds issued, acquiring and housing equipment, and caring for its properties.

Boundaries of village and park district do not coincide, the once home site of Joseph Sears, founder, curiously being the only portion of Kenilworth in the Winnetka park district.

Step by step the new park board set about to realize George Maher's dream of railway park entrances, with all stores west of the tracks. Its first act, April 9, 1906, was to purchase, for the price paid, the debated 125x175-foot northwest corner at Kenilworth and Cumnor and to purchase from Joseph Sears the remaining 140 feet on Kenilworth, running 113 feet on Richmond, taking a 5-year option on the opposite 125x175-foot southeast corner (minus already deeded corners). The remaining 175 feet on Kenilworth, running 125 feet on Cumnor, Joseph Sears gave as the site of the assembly hall. In 1909 purchases of 75 adjoining feet on the east side of Richmond Road and, in 1917, 73.54 feet adjoining the village and railroad owned properties on the west side of Richmond Road, from the Sears estate, effected a park site from the assembly hall to the railroad, screening the tracks.

The tract on the north side of Kenilworth Avenue, where villagers gather in tribute to their honored dead, became known as Memorial Park. A wild flower path in memory of the poetess, Anne Higginson Spicer, connects it with the village garden.

The other railroad entrance, at Melrose Avenue, was secured January 14, 1911, when Joseph Sears, his chief incentive ever the children, deeded to the park board the 1½-acre triangular block to the north along the railroad as a playground. Added later were, in 1930, a skating rink, including a small rink for

hockey; in 1934, floodlights; in 1935, a loud-speaker, including player equipment for broadcasting records, and in 1938 a field house. May 2, 1913, the park board purchased from the Sears estate the south side of Melrose facing the playground, bringing to it in 1923 from Fortress Monroe a cannon patriotically to be given in the scrap drive of World War II.

The third step of the park board was the linking of the Kenilworth and Melrose entrances, purchasing from the Sears estate 25 feet on Richmond Road, in November, 1916, necessitating the removal of the early fire shed, now the dog pound, to the end of the street, and the 140 feet adjoining in November, 1921. From Charles O'Connor was purchased 22 feet in January, 1922, and 63 feet, improved with present village office, contracted for in April, 1923; and from Alfred Crooks 62 feet with the original company store, contracted for in January, 1914, a bond issue, February, 1930, concluding the purchase of both building sites. In 1933 the original company store, except for part now used as the North Shore ticket office and a confectionery store, was torn down and replaced by a modern garden, planned by Mrs. Bentley McCloud, who served for twelve years as the park board's first woman commissioner. When some day a village hall and a fire station rise on the triangles southwest of the railroad station on Green Bay Road, these buildings will come down.

At the south entrance to the village, on either side of Sheridan Road, is Mahoney park and bird sanctuary, deeded by the Mahoney sisters and their brother on their death in 1929 to the village board in gratefulness for the village that grew up about their homestead. Here gather the Scouts at its council rings and picnicking villagers at its fireplace, in the beauty designed by the naturalist and landscape architect, Jens Jensen.

In the center of old Kenilworth, at Kenilworth Avenue and Warwick Road, is the Charles Ware Memorial Garden, in 1939 the gift of Fannie Ware in memory of her husband and in love

of the community church in which they had served since 1892. It was designed by the Cleveland landscape architect, Donald Grey, so that its rare trees and shrubs may flower or fruit through every month of the year.

In 1920, lest it become the backyard of neighboring villages, west Kenilworth was added, and the early dream of parks at the railroad entrances was expanded, according to George Maher's greater village plan of 1922. A park site was secured west of the station, along Railroad Avenue, now Green Bay Road. In 1925 an old road was widened into Park Drive and given over to the care of the park board. Street lights in the area to the south of Park Drive are set in landscaped triangles, guiding one through its curving roads. At the station are landscaped parking areas, looking across Green Bay Road to the landscaped sites of the future village hall and fire station.

Thoughts turned to west Kenilworth north of Park Drive, July, 1946, when the Kenilworth Advisory Council, composed of the presidents and past presidents of all its village organizations, discussed a possible playground at the entrance of the underpass on Green Bay Road.

The roster of park commissioners over a period of forty years has included Francis Lackner, A. Shreve Badger, George Maher, W. H. Isom, Victor Sanborn, Herman Kasten, Vibe K. Spicer, George W. Keehn, William M. Stearns, John Benham, Charles Armstrong, Edward Parmalee, James R. Chapman, F. B. Huntington, Alex. W. Hannah, Frank M. Hicks, William B. Fitch, Lloyd M. Willis, Benjamin F. Odell, Maurice L. Jenks, John P. Oleson, Arthur McIntosh, Walter F. Shattuck, Roy H. Jarrett, E. F. Hamm, George P. Nichols, Charles Howe, Joseph Joyce, Ward Starrett, Herbert B. Taylor, Mrs. Bentley McCloud, John F. White, Herbert Prussing, Leon T. Ellis, Allen E. Bulley, Warren K. Hathaway, Leonard Paidar, Mrs. Gilbert Kelly, Jervis Babb, Frank G. Karstlake and Marshall L. Doty.



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The office of secretary has been filled by Benjamin P. Hinman, Jr. (for many years), F. J. Odell, Herbert B. Taylor and C. M. Osborn, and that of treasurer by Howard O. Edmonds, Robert H. Tinsman, Harry Weese and George Rigler.



# Schools—Public and Private



**K**ENILWORTH is justly proud of the Joseph Sears public school, at Abbotsford Road and Cumberland Avenue, where life is so pleasant that the alumni attending nearby New Trier High School cannot resist the temptation to drop in for occasional chats with their former teachers.

But when Kenilworth was young its educational institutions were operated privately on a fee basis. Almost simultaneously, there came into existence in 1891 the Rugby School, for the boys, and Mrs. Babcock's School, also known as Kenilworth Hall, for the young ladies.

Headmaster of the Rugby School was Frank Lincoln Olmstead, proud possessor of an A.B. degree from Harvard. His first assistant was Louis Rouillon, a Cornell graduate. Of the eight trustees, four resided in Kenilworth: Guy F. Gosman, W. H. H. Sears, Rollin A. Keyes and Joseph Sears.

Rugby sought to train its students "in the elements of a good education" and "to meet the moral and physical needs of each, so that all influences shall tend to the development of a manly character."

The first school sessions were held in the home of Joseph Sears and the first class numbered three—Guy Gosman, Jr., Joseph M. Sears and Philip Sears. Bernie Gosman and Rufus B. Stolp increased the roster to five.

In 1892 the Rugby School took over an old farm house—since demolished—near the southeast corner of Kenilworth

Avenue and Sheridan Road, while ground was being broken for a new building.

The architect was George W. Maher (who also designed Kenilworth Hall) and a prospectus for 1892-93 assured parents that the new home, then under construction, "embodies the best results for lighting, heating and ventilating."

Rugby experienced its greatest growth during the next few years, increased its faculty to five and had as many as fifty day and boarding pupils. Mr. Olmstead was succeeded in 1894 by William R. Trowbridge, with whom was associated Francis King Cook, founder of the Girton School for Girls in Winnetka. The latter school really began when six (later ten) girls were received at Rugby and received instruction in a room in Mr. Trowbridge's home for three years. It was closed in 1904, the school building being converted into a residence.

Kenilworth Hall, which housed Mrs. Babcock's school, was completed in 1891, and boasted a chemistry laboratory in the basement, class rooms, and a second floor gymnasium which for years served as a civic center for the soon to be incorporated village. The square-built building at that time was imposing for its size, arched entrance, high basement, spacious first floor and steep roof enclosing the second story.

As befitted the head of such an institution, Mrs. Babcock was a member of the Chicago Woman's Club and Fortnightly Club and founder and first president of the Kenilworth Literary Society. Her educational domain included Latin, French, mathematics, history and literature.

From nearby Northwestern University came the instructors in physics and chemistry, and a Swedish ex-army officer taught fencing. The head of domestic science in the Chicago Public Schools rounded out the curriculum with cooking lessons—the '90s equivalent of home economics. In the gymnasium, courtly Eugene Bournique held dancing classes.

Like Rugby, Kenilworth Hall was closed in 1904. The building was subsequently remodeled as a residence, at 303 Cumnor Road. Mrs. Babcock's home, which had served as a boarding place for teachers and pupils, was operated later as the Kenilworth Inn, first by a sister of Francis King Cook, until being torn down in 1939.

Meanwhile the public school for District 6 in Township 42, to quote the old records, was organized in 1898 in a one-room frame building near the railroad tracks. The number of rooms was later increased to two.

The first surviving records of that school, dated September 4, 1900, list Miss Martha Foote as teacher of the primary department. Her pupils, ranging from 6 to 9 years in age, were enrolled as Edwin Badger, Roswell Barratt, Lydia Clark, Roswell Fuller, Ethel Hadley, Shipman Keehn, Ida Miller, Virginia Powell, Warren Pease, the three Taylor boys—Herbert, Vincent and Clive—and Ellery Wood.

The first school trustees of record were Mortimer Burchard, Warren Pease and Charles Ware.

That same yellowed school enrollment book shows that Miss Martha Foote later taught the primary and intermediate grades and was joined in 1903 by Miss Mary L. Robinson, of the post-office and station agent Robinsons. Miss Lenore L. Negus was added to the staff in 1904, and Miss M. M. Batterton in 1906.

The increase in pupils made larger quarters imperative and in 1904, Joseph Sears donated the property on which was erected a three-room white frame structure on the site of the present gymnasium.

What appears to have been the first graduating class started its ceremonies on June 23, 1905. It was an age addicted to elocution, and the stenciled program of the "Closing Exercises of the Kenilworth Public School" included twenty-six recitations.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The three-room school building proved inadequate in a few years, and various enforced makeshifts in the way of classrooms resulted. When congestion was at its worst, the first graders convened on the stage platform, and the kindergarten and domestic science classes in the guild rooms of the Union Church.

The school board records of 1911 show frequent consultations with Miss Alma W. Holden, who was apparently serving as principal. The board that year also retained Miss M. Louise Robinson (who retired in 1941) to teach art and music two days a week. At the time Miss Robinson was soloist in the Kenilworth Union Church.

In 1912, the school board ended the school congestion (temporarily) by erecting, on three additional lots given it in 1911, a brick building that forms the center of the present school structure today. It was named the Joseph Sears School in memory of the village founder, who died January 30, 1912.

By 1915, the teaching roster had increased to eight: Alma W. Holden (principal), Marguerite McKinley, Olive Coleman, Margaret Simpson, M. Louise Robinson, Madge E. Weinland, Mabel L. Almond and Helena Huffaker (part time).

The salary list for December, 1914, as approved by the board, also carries the name of Jacob Baker officially as school janitor. Baker took on the work for "six months only" in 1911 as a result of a special appeal of the school board. He is still with Joseph Sears School.

That the artistic side of the school curriculum was not neglected in those early days is shown by the purchase of a piano for the school on February 18, 1915. The cost was \$159.

In 1916 the school trustees, after due deliberation, took another step forward, hired Miss Jackson as a playground teacher for 1917, and added manual training to the curriculum.

The board minutes in 1918 also recorded: "Mrs. Snyderacker reported for the educational committee that Miss Alice Wessa had



been engaged as principal at the salary of \$160 per month, with the option of engaging her next year at \$170." Miss Wessa's services were apparently most satisfactory, for she remained as principal for six years.

The period after World War I saw a rapid growth of population in Kenilworth and a succession of enlargements to the school property:

A four-room addition to the school (now the west section) was built in 1922, and construction was started on a two-story twelve-room addition and gymnasium in 1928. This is the section of the Joseph Sears School building that fronts on Abbotsford Road.

Officially known as the Kenilworth Memorial Gymnasium, in memory of the veterans of World War I, that section of the school property was made possible by donations from citizens and civic organizations and was dedicated on March 9, 1929.

The brown frame house which houses the domestic science classes and school infirmary, just to the south of the main school building, was purchased in 1928 to relieve the overcrowded school conditions. It was used at that time for the kindergarten and first two grades.

In 1939 the northwest corner of Abbotsford Road and Cumberland Avenue was purchased as a site for a future junior high school.

The man who has made Joseph Sears what it is today, Elmer L. Nygaard, was retained as school superintendent in 1924, and he brought with him R. J. Finnigan as head of manual training. Finnigan and Bob Townley, who joined the school in 1922 as athletic instructor for the boys, have made reputations for themselves in their respective fields that extend far beyond Kenilworth.

Perhaps the spirit which pervades the school can best be explained by this remark, made several years ago by Superintendent Nygaard in private conversation: "If we can surround the



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

pupils with the right atmosphere, with paintings and the finer things in life, they will look for them when they go out into the world as adults."

Under Superintendent Nygaard have come not only high scholastic standards, but also a long list of extracurricular activities which set Joseph Sears apart from the average public grade school. To mention only a few, these include the annual school exhibits attended by most of Kenilworth, the masked parade (and lecture on vandalism) on Halloween afternoon, the Christmas pageant and carols, the annual Shakespeare play, Bob Townley's football night, and the recorder groups and school orchestra organized each year by Miss Margaret Davenport.

Including Superintendent Nygaard, the teaching staff today numbers twenty-four; the enrollment fluctuates between 400 and 450.

Teachers at Joseph Sears School who have given fifteen years or more to the training and teaching of Kenilworth children include Miss Florence Allender, Miss Margaret Davenport, Miss Etta Knudson, Miss Nell Littler, Mrs. Marjorie Mills, Miss Anne Pemberton, Miss Bessie Stark and Miss Edith M. Stryker, Sr.

Miss Caroline Littler retired in 1945 after twenty years of faithful service to the children in the first grade.

Presidents of the Kenilworth School board have been the following: M. M. Burchard, 1899-1902; George Keehn, 1902-1905; A. F. Reichmann, 1905-1908; Carl Keith, 1908-1910; George Carman, 1910-1911; Dr. Charles Horswell, 1911-1914; Charles M. Armstrong, 1914-1917; W. F. Zimmerman, 1917-1921; Mrs. Ruth Snyder, 1921-1923; Alexander W. Hannah, 1923-1924; Arthur T. McIntosh, 1924-1931; Jule A. Petersen, 1931-1934; Arthur W. Wakeley, 1934-1937; John Nuveen, Jr., 1937-1940; Harry J. Williams, 1940-1943; George H. Rigler, 1943-1946; Vernon R. Loucks, 1946——.

HERMAN GASTRELL SEELY.

# Kenilworth Union Church



ON a cold Sunday afternoon, November 6, 1892, Kenilworth Union Church was dedicated to the worship of God and the service of man. Hardly had the few residents of this small village put roofs on their homes when they gathered together to consider what was to them the imperative obligation of providing a place of common worship. These men and women knew that to have a community there must be a spiritual unity!

One of the most striking things about our church and community is that at this early date when denominational interests were all important and doctrinal differences exalted as of eternal significance these men and women founded a church dedicated to the worship of God over and above all minor points of difference of approach. "Recognizing," as they said in their declaration of faith, "the minor differences which exist among believers as being consistent with Christian integrity, we have united as a Church of Jesus Christ upon the great essentials of the Christian Faith. This church was organized for the worship of God and the advancement of His Kingdom. We acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as the Great Head of the Church, and receive the Holy Scriptures as authoritative in matters of faith and life. We believe that Christ's Church is one, and pray for the realization of its unity through all the earth."

During the summer of 1892 the people of Kenilworth, organized as the society, held a number of meetings in the interest of

the church. Under the plan finally agreed upon, the Kenilworth Company, of which Mr. Sears was president, was to build a church, and the society was to supply the necessary furnishings and support the regular services. Accordingly the present chapel was built at a cost of \$6,100, and the furnishings were supplied, including the organ, at a cost of about \$900. The architect of the building was Franklin P. Burnham, company architect.

The dedication sermon was preached by the late Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, widely known pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Evanston, and the late Rev. Louis P. Mercer, of the Church of the New Jerusalem of Chicago, pronounced the dedicatory ritual. The music was provided through the enthusiastic interest of George Ellsworth Holmes and Walter R. Root and consisted of a double quartette from the Church of the Messiah and the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. The organist was A. F. McCarrell.

The services of the church during that first year were conducted by various clergymen called in from Sunday to Sunday. The names of these early preachers will be of interest both in themselves and for their wide variety of denominational affiliation. They included Rev. Louis P. Mercer, mentioned above; Rev. Floyd W. Tompkins, Jr., St. James Episcopal Church, Chicago; Rev. Moses Smith, Congregational Church, Glencoe; Bishop Charles E. Cheney, Reformed Episcopal Church, Chicago; Rev. Herbert S. Leonard, Methodist Episcopal Church, Wilmette; Rev. Thomas A. King, New Church, Englewood; Rev. J. F. Loba, Congregational Church, Evanston; Rev. J. H. Delano, Baptist Church, Evanston, and Rev. Quincy L. Dowd of Winnetka.

The first permanent pastor of the church was the late Rev. Gerhardt C. Mars, who preached his first sermon as minister of the church on October 22, 1893. At the same time the Sunday School was organized under the superintendency of Mr. William R. Trowbridge.





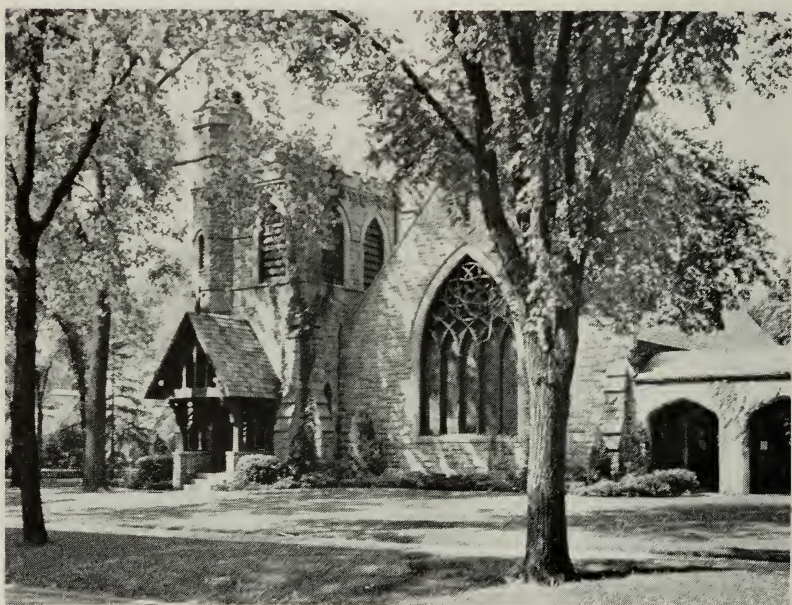
*Of the three houses in Kenilworth before the village was founded,  
this one, on Sheridan Road, remains*



*Mahoney Farm House*



*Grave of Eugene Field*



*Church of the Holy Comforter*



## KENILWORTH UNION CHURCH

Dr. Mars' ministry to the community was concluded after two years' service. The second minister of the church was Dr. Charles Horswell, a friend of Dr. Mars and a professor in Garrett Biblical Institute. Dr. Horswell combined his work as a teacher at Garrett and a preacher in Kenilworth. Between the first pastor and the second there was an interim period during which time the church was served by the Rev. Edward Anderson, of Chicago, from December 15, 1895, to June 6, 1896.

Dr. Horswell's first incumbency as minister extended from September, 1896, to March, 1902, during which time he lived in Evanston. It is interesting to note that the Episcopalians residing in Kenilworth had been using the Union Church building for their evening services, but now were offered complete control of the building for one year. Their occupancy lasted from August, 1902, until October, 1903. This is a significant part of our history as a church and our relationship with the Church of the Holy Comforter.

At the end of this period Dr. Horswell returned to the church October 11, 1903, but this time as a resident minister in the new parsonage, at 522 Essex Road, built by James A. Culbertson on property belonging to Joseph Sears and loaned by them to the church for the use of its pastor. At the close of Dr. Horswell's ministry, the residence returned to its original owners. The society had led a rather struggling existence and it was felt that this was due to not having a minister in actual residence. Evidently the analysis was accurate for under the improved conditions and with the growth of the village the church activities began to thrive. At this time a more thorough organization was effected and a constitution was adopted.

On January 4, 1904, the first recorded meeting of the Church Guild was held, and in November of the same year the first of the church's rare but renowned bazaars was held. Since this first meeting the guild has been a constant factor in the welfare work of

the community, meeting regularly on Mondays in the guild room of the church. Its presidents have been Mrs. Grant Ridgway, Mrs. D. F. Peck, Mrs. James R. Chapman, Mrs. John Hicks, Mrs. M. A. Livingston, Mrs. Walter F. Shattuck, Mrs. Ralph W. Starrett, Mrs. Leon T. Ellis, Mrs. Bentley McCloud, Miss Margaret Harris, Mrs. Alfred L. McDougal, Mrs. Gerald F. Pauley, Mrs. Allan T. Gilbert, Mrs. Thompson M. Wakeley and Mrs. Julien H. Collins.

The first communion service was celebrated on December 2, 1906. From the beginning it has been the custom of the church to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper three times each year, in the autumn at the beginning of the church work, at the first of the year, and at Easter time.

The beautiful memorial chancel window was presented to the church in 1908 by Mrs. C. K. Parmelee. The text, "Thou Wilt Shew Me the Path of Life," was inscribed on the wall by the Woman's Guild.

In 1909 Mr. Sears donated to the church a strip of land east of the church property which made possible James A. Culbertson's gift to the church of a building containing the gymnasium and guild room. George Maher was the architect, and Fred Bulley had charge of the building operations. An afternoon and evening housewarming celebrated the opening on December 29, 1909. This gift of Mr. Culbertson's was typical of his far-seeing generous public spirit. From 1906 until his death in 1915 he was president of the board of trustees. The church record contains this memorial to him: "He loved the Church; he lived himself into it; his devotion to it is a most precious memory." There still exists the record book of the church, containing the signatures of the members who joined from its beginning until the year 1917, together with record of marriages and baptisms performed by the pastor in that period.

On Sunday, September 30, 1917, Dr. Horswell preached his farewell sermon, concluding a long ministry of twenty years. He

## KENILWORTH UNION CHURCH

was succeeded by the Rev. David Beaton, M. A., who preached his first sermon on October 7, 1917. Mr. Beaton, born in Scotland and educated at the University of Edinburgh, had been for twenty years the minister of the Lincoln Park Congregational Church of Chicago.

During World War I the work of the church was marked by patriotic activities, Red Cross and united war work. The Red Cross headquarters were centered in the church guild room; likewise the War Camp Community Service, where open house was maintained for the sailors of Great Lakes.

The Sunday School prospered under the able leadership of John Benham, formerly superintendent of the Sunday School of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Chicago. A genial administrator and universal favorite, he cared for both the spiritual and temporal needs of the school with unbounded generosity. He was ably assisted by Miss Louise Lovedale, of the primary department. The floral Easter service of the Sunday School, which has become an annual observance, was instituted by Mr. Benham.

Others who have served as superintendents, giving generously of their time, are William R. Trowbridge, Carl Keith, Willam J. Taylor, John Haslam, Charles C. Oliver, Mrs. James R. Chapman, Frank Chafee, Charles D. Howe, Willard T. Carter, Richard T. Carter, C. Russell Small, Arthur Jackson, Miss Ruth Morrison, Miss Gertrude McIntosh and Robert Hauserman. Since 1921 Miss Virginia Little has been the efficient secretary of the church and until 1941 she was also secretary of the Sunday School. Community work with the children was under the able direction of Mrs. William L. Page and Robert Townley.

While Harry P. Harrison was president of the board plans were inaugurated during 1918 for the enlargement of the church, the installation of a new organ, the rehabilitation of the gymnasium and the utilization of the church equipment for community service.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

In January of 1920 the Rev. William A. Colledge F. R. G. S., was called as the successor of Dr. Beaton. Dr. Colledge was born in Edinburgh and was ordained a Congregationalist. He was for nine years professor of language and literature at Armour Institute, where he was an associate of Dr. Gunsaulus. He was also associated for many years with the Redpath Lecture Bureau, from which institution he came to serve as the minister of the church. It was at this time that the board of trustees purchased the home at 319 Richmond Road to serve as the church parsonage. Dr. Colledge continued his pastoral relations with the church until June, 1925.

On February 28, 1927, a call was extended to Dr. Herbert L. Willett and was accepted. He began his ministry at once, although the family did not arrive until May 1. Dr. Willett had come from Yale University with Dr. William Rainey Harper to the University of Chicago at the beginning of its history, continuing his professorship there in the field of Semitic and Old Testament literature until his retirement from the university in 1929. In addition to his multitude of other activities, Dr. Willett was the founder of the University Church of the Disciples on the campus of the University of Chicago.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, 1930, the Sunday School dedicated memorial windows to Franklin Bellows, Purcell Macklin and Manierre Ware, members of the Sunday School who made the supreme sacrifice in the first world war. These windows are the chief feature of the guild room.

Dr. Willett's pastorate of the Kenilworth Union Church continued until 1940, when he was made minister emeritus and was succeeded by Dr. Duncan E. Littlefair. Dr. Littlefair came to the church after taking his Ph. D. degree at the University of Chicago, following a year of residence abroad.

Sunday, November 6, 1942, the church had its golden anniversary tea in the guild room, presenting each family a copy of a



## KENILWORTH UNION CHURCH

booklet containing a commemorative history, which supplied most of the material for this account. Sunday, December 20, the Sunday School had its golden anniversary Christmas pageant, its two presentations each followed by a tea in the once Culbertson community gymnasium for the reunion of parents and children attending through the years. The children dedicated that day a robed choir of twenty voices and a teachers' reference library. Miss Dorothy Sears, superintendent of the Junior Department and a pupil in its first primary department in 1893, was in attendance.

Through the years the Sunday School had grown. In October, 1893, it was organized under the first permanent pastor, Rev. Gerhardt Mars, with the new master at Rugby, William Trowbridge, as superintendent, Willie Taylor leading the singing and Mrs. Walter Root in charge of the primary department, in the pastor's study, the now organ loft. Other classes were assigned pews. Attendance was augmented by Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead with the then twenty-eight boys at Rugby School, eleven from Kenilworth, and "a bevy of pretty girls from Mrs. Babcock's School for Young Ladies, the year preceding the church founding attending St. Mark's in Evanston." Mrs. George Maher remains the earliest teacher still living in the village, her class of eight boys meeting where the organ pipes now stand. In 1906, Mrs. Hermann Kasten spoke to the board feelingly on the necessity of a building adjoining the church for the Sunday School, and in 1910, the use of the new guild room was added. In 1928, the basement of the gymnasium was remodeled into modern Sunday school rooms, the former bowling alleys now the little children's chapel. Removable partitions in the gymnasium provide rooms for the primary department. In 1945, the founder's ideal of a nonsectarian unity was adopted by the North Shore in the founding of a Young People's Sunday Evening Club with world-renowned speakers, meeting six times during the season in the New Trier High School auditorium, with Miss Virginia Beaven, from this church, as vice-president.



## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Dr. William Robert Hodgson, the present minister, commenced his work September 17, 1944, coming from fourteen years of service at The First Congregational Church at Moline, Ill. He was born in South Shields, England, and was ordained a Presbyterian and then a Congregational minister. At the close of World War II he was chosen one of three American ministers to represent the World Council of Churches on a commission to Europe, studying the social and religious conditions in the wake of the war, and to make recommendations to the American churches how best to aid the war victims and the rehabilitation of morals and religion. Upon his return he spoke in twenty states delivering the message of his findings.

Upon Dr. Hodgson's accession, the house at 211 Warwick Road was purchased as the minister's residence, the former parsonage on Richmond Road being sold.

The original board of trustees of the church was composed of Alfred V. Martin, president; Guy F. Gosman, treasurer; Harry A. Hall, secretary; Joseph Sears, Rollin A. Keyes, Benjamin P. Hinman, George Cutter, George Ellsworth Holmes and Charles McCook.

Presidents of the board and their terms of service follow: Alfred V. Martin, 1892-1905; Carl Keith, 1905-1906; James A. Culbertson, 1906-1915; James R. Chapman, 1915-1918; Charles T. Chandler, 1918-1920; Frank G. Ely, 1920-1923; Edward F. Hamm, 1923-1925; Theodore E. Moritz, 1925-1928; Leslie McArthur, 1928-1928; H. M. Gardiner, 1928-1931; Harry J. Williams, 1931-1934; George Irving Bell, 1934-1937; A. R. Peterson, 1937-1940; Thompson M. Wakeley, 1940-1942; Julien H. Collins, 1942-1944; Joseph C. Beaven, 1944-1946; O. W. Eshbach, 1946.

MRS. WALTER MARX.

# Church of the Holy Comforter



THE gray-stone Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter with its rectory occupies the southeast corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Warwick Road. There the Reverend Leland Hobart Danforth ministers to the needs of some 360 families in Kenilworth and the adjacent communities.

There the chimes, housed in the singing tower, play Brahms' Lullaby every time a child is born in Kenilworth, Winnetka or Wilmette and the rector is notified of the event.

There also come hundreds of visitors annually to the tomb of Eugene Field, the children's poet, and to the Rector's Garden, with its antiquities from overseas and its scale model of the Holy Land.

So well known are the tomb and the garden that visitors come from all over the United States and from foreign countries. During the Century of Progress in Chicago, the roster contained names from twenty-three nations and dominions outside the United States.

The Church of the Holy Comforter owes its origin to the visits of the Reverend Henry Gratton Moore, rector of Christ Church, in neighboring Winnetka, to the Episcopalian families of early Kenilworth.

It was the custom during those formative years, beginning in 1899, to hold the church services in the home of some of the Episcopalian families. The report by the Winnetka rector to the Diocese of Chicago that year showed seventeen families on the Kenilworth roster. The diocesan reports showed further that in October, 1900, the fledgling congregation was organized inform-

ally as a mission. In his address to the diocesan convention in 1901, the bishop noted that "it is cheering to report a new mission beginning in Kenilworth."

Shortly thereafter the mission was organized formally, with the Reverend Moore as priest in charge. In October, 1902, the Rev. Freeborn G. Jewett was appointed priest in charge, services being held in the Union Church edifice.

That year saw the selection officially of the name of the Church of the Holy Comforter. The number of families enrolled was twenty-two; the first treasurer of record was J. E. Lloyd.

Under the stimulus of a full-time spiritual leader, the Church of the Holy Comforter grew steadily. By the end of the first year the congregation numbered twenty-eight families and 126 souls, of which seventy-two were baptized and thirty-two confirmed.

The choir consisted of a quartette, and the newly organized Sunday School had seven teachers and forty-two scholars. Pledges totaled \$2,096.44 and expenses were reported as \$1,728.23.

The finance committee which started the new mission on a solvent basis included many leaders in the activities of early Kenilworth. F. W. Wood served as treasurer, his associates being A. S. Badger, M. H. Burchard, H. O. Edmonds, J. L. Ferguson, J. E. Lloyd, J. W. Pease and H. R. Reed.

The year 1903 saw the preparation of a petition for formal status as a parish, a petition which was acted on favorably by the diocesan convention the following spring.

The first election as a parish on May 1, 1904, saw Reverend Jewett chosen as rector. The first vestry consisted of A. S. Badger, senior warden; J. E. Lloyd, junior warden; F. W. Wood, treasurer; H. O. Edmonds, J. L. Ferguson, H. W. Irwin, J. W. Pearl, W. B. McIllwaine, H. R. Reed and W. F. Zimmerman.

The parish congregation that year included thirty-three families, forty-eight communicants, and 131 baptized and fifty-one confirmed persons.

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

The growth of the congregation made a separate home imperative, and accordingly the Babcock School building, at Cumnor Road and Woodstock Avenue, was rented temporarily for Sunday services.

With characteristic generosity, Joseph Sears, founder of Kenilworth, donated the lot on which the church buildings now stand, his only condition being that construction start within a reasonable time. That was in 1905 and the congregation, with more courage than cash, responded by borrowing \$8,000 on the bishop's signature. The amount in the church treasury at the time the building was started was \$45.16.

Soon after the completion of the new home, the Rev. Freeborn Jewett accepted a call to another parish. His successor was the Rev. E. Reginald Williams, who served as rector through 1913.

Scarcely a year after the new rector had taken office, the sacristy of the church was gutted by a fire that started in a defective flue.

Beginning with 1914 and continuing through the troubled years of World War I, the Church of the Holy Comforter saw a succession of rectors and of priests in temporary charge. These included Rev. Edward Lyman Eustis (1914), Rev. Herbert D. Gwyn (1916), Rev. Samuel A. B. Mercer (1922), and Rev. Theodore B. Foster (1922).

The frequent changes in spiritual leadership had an adverse effect on the congregation, and the influence of the church in Kenilworth during this period at times was at a low ebb. That the parish was kept alive was due chiefly to the efforts of William C. Engler, senior warden and a son-in-law of Eugene Field.

The turn came in 1923, when the congregation elected the Rev. Danforth as its rector. Quite early in his service, he decided to rehabilitate and expand the properties and give the church a more than purely local interest. Accordingly plans were drawn



for the rectory, funds were raised, and the ground was broken for construction in 1925. Completion came early the following year.

At that time, the body of Eugene Field, the children's poet, was resting in an obscure lot in Graceland cemetery. Rev. Danforth suggested reinterment in the newly landscaped cloister close of the Church of the Holy Comforter. After an exchange of correspondence, Mrs. Field agreed readily to the change.

The reinterment in February, 1926, drew a host of Field's admirers and former associates from all over the United States. The impressively simple ceremonies consisted of a service for the dead, read by the Rev. Danforth.

Present, in addition to Mrs. Field and other members of the family, were such nationally known men as William E. Dever, mayor of Chicago; Victor F. Lawson, owner and publisher of the Chicago Daily News, and Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern University.

Upon the death of Mrs. Field in 1936, her body was laid to rest beside that of her famous husband.

The Rector's Garden, which is almost as well known as the tomb of Eugene Field, was begun in 1930.

The Singing Tower was given in 1937 as a memorial to William O. Belt, who was junior warden of the church at the time of his death. Its melodies are known alike to churchgoers and to homeward-bound commuters at eventide.

The Lullaby Chimes, which have announced the arrival of so many new members of families in Kenilworth and the adjacent villages, were given as a memorial to Ada Estelle Ketcham on Christmas Day, 1941.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, a quiet corner in the church was set aside as a shrine of prayer for those "who are concerned for and pray for the men and women in the armed forces."



## CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

As a symbol of the issues at stake, there was imposed against a simple dossal curtain an ancient crusader's sword carrying the figure of the crucified Jesus. For the aid of those who prayed, a kneeler was provided on which was a book of suitable prayers, a list of those giving their lives to the cause, and a list of all members of the parish in the armed forces.

Over these intervening years, the congregation has been fortunate in having as a leader a man who loves Kenilworth and has refused calls from bigger Episcopal parishes in Chicago and other cities. Under his ministrations, the congregation has increased steadily. Today it includes some 360 families, 790 communicants and 1350 baptized persons.

Nor is the growth ended, for the construction of a new parish house is Rev. Danforth's next goal. Working with him, a committee headed by Harold B. Kraft, chairman, Conger Reynolds and Horace B. Pearson, Sr., has amassed \$63,000 for the project. Construction is scheduled to start as soon as building conditions permit.

As in the early days, the members of the vestry are active in the civic affairs of Kenilworth and the nearby villages. They are Arthur W. Carlson, senior warden; S. William Storey, junior warden; Ellis R. Jones, treasurer; James E. Armitage, Franklin W. Frietsch, William W. Gridley, Elton F. Hascall, Jr., Edwin J. Herrick, Harold B. Kraft, Kenneth D. Miller, Horace B. Pearson, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jesse D. Trump and Norsvin H. Vaughan.

HERMAN GASTRELL SEELY.

# Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association



**D**URING the early years, prior to 1906, Kenilworth had no official meeting place for gatherings larger than could be comfortably accommodated in someone's living room. The auditorium above Mrs. Babcock's School served for dancing lessons, musicals and special meetings too large for a parlor. This was a private building, however, and not always available. As Kenilworth developed it outgrew these facilities, too, so that the need for a community building of some sort became more and more pressing and obvious.

Out of this need, the generosity of two principal donors, Joseph Sears and James A. Culbertson, and the interest of everyone then living in Kenilworth, evolved the plan which resulted in the erection of the building, designed by George W. Maher, which at once became Kenilworth's official assembly hall, not only in name but in fact.

The hall was built at a time when such an effort would have been impossible had it not been for the generosity of these two citizens and the willing and eager cooperation of every family then living in Kenilworth. Mr. Sears donated the property upon which the building stands, valued at least at \$6,000 at the time, and Mr. Culbertson wrote a check for \$10,000. Some eighty residents of Kenilworth subscribed the rest, so that sufficient funds were in hand to start building the original structure in 1906. It

was finished in 1907 and enlarged in 1914 with the addition of The Neighbors room and kitchen, at which time about \$14,000 was borrowed in order to pay for these improvements. These funds were loaned by members of the association on notes providing for five per cent interest, a precarious "investment," but again an expression of community interest for which Kenilworth is famous.

In the Assembly Hall centers our civic and our social life; it is there our village fathers meet and it is from there our trustees govern us. It is the home of the Neighbors, who gave their all to it. It is by means of the Assembly Hall that the Kenilworth Club, with its various entertainments, has been able to do so much to stimulate and unify the social life of the Village.

When the original building was planned, subscribers to the fund were issued certificates of membership, and this list of members in the association grew during the next eight years to over 180. When the improvements were paid for with borrowed money, revenue seemed sufficient to carry the property and, with anticipated new subscriptions, apparently adequate to retire the notes. Rentals from the Neighbors and the Kenilworth Club and numerous outside organizations were the only source of revenue. As years went on, the use of the building by organizations outside of the village became less and less frequent, competing as it did with the many hotels and country clubs on the north shore.

At the close of World War I, the indebtedness against the property, increased by cost of maintenance over and above revenues, had grown to \$16,000, with no corresponding way of increasing the revenue without in turn shifting the load to the Kenilworth Club, which by that time had become the principal user. It was therefore proposed, in 1920, that the trustees of the Assembly Hall Association lease the Assembly Hall property free of encumbrance to the Kenilworth Club for a period of twenty-five years for \$1 per annum, and the directors of the Kenilworth

Club agreed to accept this proposition, as soon as sufficient funds had been raised to pay off the indebtedness.

This required a bit of doing, but nothing is impossible in Kenilworth. Every member of the Kenilworth Club was asked to make a subscription of \$100 to the association or bring his present subscription, if less than \$100, up to this figure. Every organization helped, and subscribed, and many of the old note-holders donated the amounts of their notes and accrued interest—even those long removed from Kenilworth cheerfully giving the amounts they had loaned years ago. The campaign was a huge success, every note was paid off or cancelled, the building was freed of debt and turned over to the Kenilworth Club in March of 1921.

In so doing, every member of the Kenilworth Club became a member of the Assembly Hall Association, and at the time the club took charge of the property, by far the majority of families living in Kenilworth were either members of the association and/or members of the club. Thereafter, and for a period of twelve years every new member joining the Kenilworth Club, in addition to initiation fees, current at the time, also made a subscription of \$100 to the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association. Half of this subscription went into a building maintenance fund, operated by the Kenilworth Club. The other half was deposited with the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association for alterations and improvements and for retiring memberships of members of the association who resigned from the association and from the club and who at the same time had moved away from Kenilworth.

This subscription program was finally discontinued in 1932, when the Kenilworth Club was hard pressed to maintain its membership and initiation fees, and subscriptions in this amount became prohibitive. Fortunately, the building had been maintained in good repair. The club cheerfully shouldered the responsibility of

carrying on as its part of the bargain and has never failed to maintain the property in excellent condition.

For a long period club membership and association membership were synonymous, but when compulsory subscriptions ceased, the picture gradually changed. Today, of the 180 original members of the association, only eighteen now reside in Kenilworth. Of the present active club membership totaling 210, there are but twenty-five members who made a subscription to the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association. Of the 560 families in Kenilworth less than eighty-five are members of the association, although one and all enjoy the benefits of the Assembly Hall.

This brief history of the Assembly Hall should be of particular interest, therefore, to the newer residents of Kenilworth. Kenilworth has always been a community of homes with an unusually strong, closely knit community spirit. It was this mutuality of interest and cooperation which made the Assembly Hall possible. It is this same interest in civic affairs and in things of Kenilworth which has made the Kenilworth Club itself the unique organization which it is and has made it possible for them to enjoy the use of the Assembly Hall by an arrangement which is without parallel—a clubhouse without cost which they cheerfully maintain for the benefit of the village as a whole.

The trustees of the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association are Percy B. Eckhart, Walter Noble Gillett, Sanford S. Holden, Bentley G. McCloud and Herbert B. Taylor.

The original trustees in 1906 were Herman W. Kasten, George W. Keehn, Charles K. Blackwood, Grant Ridgway and William F. Wood.

HERBERT B. TAYLOR.



# The Kenilworth Club



IN the articles of incorporation of the Kenilworth Club, dated May 11, 1894, appears the following: "The object for which it is formed is to promote social intercourse and for the advancement and cultivation of friendly relations among its members. Also to provide literary entertainment and encourage mental culture."

Since the number of Kenilworth residents was about 150 at that time, it is evident that they felt a common community interest and its expression found itself in the creation of this community social club. All of the residents were invited to join, and most of them became members at that time or shortly after the founding of the club. Its founders and incorporators were: James A. Culbertson, M. L. Coffeen, Charles S. Smith, H. A. Hall, Alfred V. Martin, Rollin A. Keyes, H. H. Spaulding, Charles M. McCook, Charles Ware, J. B. Sears, M. L. Gould, Guy W. Gosman, Joseph Sears and George Cutter.

The first president was James A. Culbertson, and Rollin A. Keyes was vice-president. During the early years meetings and social occasions were held in members' homes. On January 14, 1896, the Kenilworth Boat Club was merged with the Kenilworth Club.

Carrying out the original purpose of its founders, the Kenilworth Club appropriated money for holding the celebration of Memorial Day for Kenilworth residents in 1896. This custom has been carried through to the present day. Money was set aside for



*First Troop of Boy Scouts*



*Village Store*



*First Public School House*



*Golfers on Links Along Sheridan Road*



*Rugby School*

## THE KENILWORTH CLUB

the selection and maintenance of an ice-skating rink for Kenilworth residents also in that year. In 1897 suitable arrangements were made for holding the Fourth of July celebration by the Village of Kenilworth. In the same year a golf course was selected. Its site was bounded by Kenilworth Avenue on the north, Leicester Avenue on the west, the lake on the east and Oxford Road on the south. Members and their friends made use of this golf course.

In 1901 plans were initiated for considering the building of a suitable club house for the Kenilworth Club. They were never completed, however, because the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association came into being at this time. It was this need of a suitable meeting place, on the part of the club, the Kenilworth Neighbors, and the other social and civic organizations in Kenilworth which inspired the forming of the Assembly Hall Association. The original building was completed in 1907, "by and for all the citizens of Kenilworth," and it has been the home of the Kenilworth Club ever since.

In 1907 the program of the Kenilworth Club included card parties, dramatic entertainments, stereoptican lectures, dances, musicales and smokers. These were for club members, and guests were permitted—all of which at that time included, for the most part, all of the residents of Kenilworth. In 1909 children's parties were given during the Christmas holidays.

In the 1919-20 season an item of \$2,000 is observed in the account books for beach improvement. Likewise in 1922 money was paid regularly for the maintenance of a lifeguard at the beach by the club. Money was also contributed by the club, along with the park board and improvement association, to meet the expense of the village planning commission toward laying plans for the Village of Kenilworth in its future developments.

In 1928, \$1,500 was given by the club for equipping the beach house at the new waterworks installation. Also lockers were obtained from the Culbertson gymnasium at the Kenilworth



Union Church at no charge to the club or the village. The club maintained for many years and helped to maintain up until 1929 the Kenilworth bathing beach. In the aggregate this amounted to many thousands of dollars. This task was turned over to the village in 1929 as being more properly a part of its responsibility and expense. Also, the skating rink maintenance was turned over to the park board as being an item of expense which properly belonged to it.

In 1921 the Kenilworth Club leased the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association properties. The terms of the lease included an amendment as follows: "The Kenilworth Club is free during the term of its lease to permit the use of the assembly hall by others for any social, public or educational purpose." In keeping with this statement we find that the Kenilworth Club has fulfilled its obligations during the past twenty-five years in following closely the terms of its contract with the Kenilworth Assembly Hall Association.

The Kenilworth Club maintains the upkeep of the Kenilworth Assembly Hall for the use of Kenilworth residents as well as using it for its own individual functions. War bond drives, Red Cross drives, civilian defense meetings, village government meetings, all are held in the Kenilworth Assembly Hall. It has meant that the Kenilworth Club has functioned as an organization which perpetuates the original purposes of its founders in maintaining not only a place for holding all civic and community meetings, but also the spirit of Kenilworth which is unique—a community whose citizens cooperate in doing things for the community for the common good of all.

The citizens of Kenilworth who have been president of the Kenilworth Club are as follows: James A. Culbertson, 1894-1895; Rollin A. Keyes, 1896; M. L. Coffeen, 1897-1898; George A. McClellan, 1899; Warren Pease, 1900-1901; Dr. W. M. Stearns, 1902-1903; Henry A. Hall, 1904; Victor C. Sanborn, 1905;



## THE KENILWORTH CLUB

Herman A. Kasten, 1906-1909; Grant Ridgway, 1910; Bruce C. Crandall, 1911-1912; Percy B. Eckhart, 1913; James C. Murray, 1914; George W. Keehn, 1915; James H. Prentiss, 1916; Mark W. Cresap, 1917; Karl B. Korrady, 1918; W. Noble Gillett, 1919; A. M. Lovedale, 1920; Harry P. Harrison, 1921; Sanford S. Holden, 1922; Clyde P. Ross, 1923; Harry E. Weese, 1924; Leslie McArthur, 1925; Julius A. Petersen, 1926; Herbert B. Taylor, 1927; Louis D. Jones, 1928; J. Ralph Starr, 1929; Arthur W. Wakeley, 1930; Charles E. Driver, 1931; H. W. Bartling, 1932; Jacques de LaChapelle, 1933; Allan T. Gilbert, 1934; William W. Sears, 1935-1936; Harry A. Olin, 1937; Thompson M. Wakeley, 1938; Willard T. Grimm, 1939; Leonard J. Paidar, 1940; Robert P. Warren, 1941; Roland D. Feltman, 1942; F. David Meacham, 1943; Frank G. Karslake, 1944; James L. Surpless, 1945; William H. Hammond, 1946.

JAMES L. SURPLESS.

# Kenilworth Historical Society



**I**N 1921 at a gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Sanborn, the Kenilworth Historical Society was born. It was Dr. Stolp who proposed it, and those present who became its charter members were Dr. and Mrs. Rufus B. Stolp, Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pease and Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Parmelee.

The first formal meeting was held October 30, 1922, when a dinner was given at the home of Mrs. Joseph Sears, to which were invited all residents of Kenilworth who had been living in the village twenty years before or earlier.

More than eighty persons were present to hear the address of welcome by the society's initiator and first president, Dr. Rufus B. Stolp.

There was no formal program, but papers were read by Mrs. Joseph Sears, who was then in her eightieth year, and by Dr. Charles S. Smith, who had come from New York with his daughter, Mrs. Broadway, to give his recollections of the Kenilworth Company, of which he had been the first secretary. It was expected that as both he and Mrs. Sears might be nervous about appearing in public (Mrs. Sears had never read a paper in her life!), their children had attentively reviewed their papers and they stood apprehensively ready to take their parents' places should it be found necessary! The hour arrived and if there were any nervousness discernible, it was to be found in the children rather

than their parents, who appeared calm and happy in reliving with their friends the memories of olden days.

Other papers were those feelingly read by Mrs. Anne Higginson Spicer and Dr. Gerhard C. Mars, first minister of the Kenilworth Union Church.

After this first meeting the gatherings were held at the Kenilworth Assembly Hall.

Dr. Stolp, through the years, made a collection of pictures and lantern slides of early events and landmarks, which have been shown again and again for the interest and enjoyment of all. This collection is one of the society's prized possessions.

From its inception, membership in the Kenilworth Historical Society has been a coveted achievement. The succulent turkey dinners, always so ably planned, have been served to from one hundred to one hundred and eighty persons from year to year.

After the first two years, 1922 and 1923, when Dr. Stolp was president, the presidents were approximately as follows: Mrs. Victor C. Sanborn, 1924; Warren Pease, 1925; Leon Allen, 1926; Mrs. Edward D. Parmelee (Vice-president Henry Taylor, Jr., Acting), 1927; Charles Ware, 1928; Percy Eckhart, 1929; Mrs. Anne Higginson Spicer, 1930; Bentley McCloud, 1931; Mrs. Mark Cresap, 1932; Ralph W. Starrett, 1933; Mrs. Douglas Flood, 1934; Ira Darling, 1935; Miss Dorothy Sears, 1936; Gilbert Kelly, 1937; James Murray, 1938; Mrs. Harry P. Harrison, 1939; James Prentiss, 1940; Harry Weese (in the absence of Major Reed Landis), 1941.

During the second World War the Historical Society meetings were suspended, Oliver Barrett being president. In the interim Mr. Barrett was obliged to resign in 1945 because of ill health, and Herbert Taylor has ably carried on the onerous duties of president in this busy year of celebrations.

During the years, many papers of reminiscence have been presented, including histories of the schools, the fire department, old

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

landmarks and Indian days. Many members have written delightfully of first recollections, while one of Kenilworth's "boys," Leon Ballard Allen, has given a rarely humorous picture of the children's life in Kenilworth, forty years ago.

Home talent has provided entertainment at the meetings. Illustrated talks, skits, dances, theatricals and negro spirituals, delightfully sung, have been presented from time to time, while on some occasions the members have entertained each other with hilarious costumes of early days. A village "Information Please" quiz program of a few years ago was received with enthusiasm, but the many questions posed, failed to stump at least one "expert," Mrs. Harry Taylor, who certainly knew her Kenilworth!

Introduced by Mrs. Charles Ware, who carried on for a number of years, able and complete reports of current history have been made annually.

The society is accumulating memorabilia of value and it is important that these should be safely preserved. Would it not be wise, in this year of looking back, to turn now and look forward to plan for and acquire a permanent home for the Kenilworth Historical Society?

DOROTHY SEARS.



# Golf Clubs



EARLY in the history of Kenilworth, about 1897, a nine-hole golf course was laid out along Sheridan Road, by permission of the owners of the unimproved property. As in the case of many other village activities, the Vibe Spicers were the initiators. When the construction of streets compelled the golfers to seek another site, a tract of forty acres was rented—for the annual taxes of \$600—immediately west of the Kenilworth station in 1908, and a course of nine holes was constructed. The club was incorporated as the North Shore Golf Club.

After occupying the land for several years at this nominal rental, the club sought a long-term lease and planned to build a club house. The new lease was at an annual rent of \$4,000, with option to purchase the land for \$100,000 and at an increase of \$1,000 a year thereafter until the option expired December 1, 1923. The Club membership at the time was \$125, and at the time the initiation fee was \$35 and annual dues were \$25. The entire income from dues was less than the proposed rent, but under the president, Hobart Marshall, the members went ahead, not only with the lease, but also with plans for a club house costing \$15,000. The directors were authorized to sell fifty new memberships for \$150, an assessment of \$150 per member was levied, and annual dues were increased to \$75. The golf course was rearranged, extensive improvements were made, and the new club house was dedicated November 3, 1917, with a banquet to George W.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Maher, architect, and Judson F. Stone, E. H. Stevens and Arthur J. Taylor, the building committee.

In order to exercise the option to buy the land, each club member was required to contribute \$35 each year to a purchase fund. In the fall of 1921, fifteen additional memberships were sold at \$275. Annual dues were increased up to \$115 the last year the club occupied the Kenilworth site.

Offers of real estate subdividers before long convinced the club members the site was too valuable for a golf course, and in 1923 the premises were sold for \$262,000 to a small group of public-spirited Kenilworthians who advanced their own money, without much hope of profit, to purchase this tract so that it might be incorporated into Kenilworth, and developed into homesites in harmony with the restrictions and traditions existing in the rest of the village. Out of the proceeds were purchased 170 acres for \$161,000 to establish the present course of the North Shore Golf Club near Glenview. The old golf course was soon covered with homes, from Green Bay Road to Ridge Road and from Park Drive to the Wilmette border.

# The Neighbors of Kenilworth



A YEAR before the village was incorporated, the women of Kenilworth felt the need of combining their interests and efforts into a club for mutual benefit. The resulting organization has been very active in carrying out its ideals of sociability, service and study. Varied and interesting programs have been given in art, literature, music, education, dramatics and philanthropy.

Many ways of earning money were formulated, as lectures, musicales, dramatics, suppers, card parties, dances, charity balls, rummage sales, rug commissions, sales of various articles, etc.

The following material has been selected from the early records and from contributions of later past presidents:

*Mrs. Homer Taylor, First President, 1895-1897.*—The Neighbors were first called together February 15, 1895, at the home of Mrs. Taylor to listen to "A Talk to Mothers," by Mrs. Alice Whitney Putnam, and to discuss plans for forming a club. Twenty-five women were present, and these became charter members. At the second meeting it was decided that the organization be most simple and be called The Neighbors, that the meetings be held on alternate Fridays from 2:30 to 5:00 P.M. and that all members should consider themselves at perfect liberty to bring guests to any meeting.

Mrs. Joseph Sears acted as chairman for the first few meetings, until the election of Mrs. Taylor as the first president.

A study class began in November, 1895, the meetings being

held on Monday evenings. Club meetings were finally changed to Thursdays, which arrangement continued for thirty years.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Homer Taylor, chairman; Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. Murray Ware, Mrs. Charles Smith, Mrs. E. D. Parmelee and Miss Elizabeth Hinman was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. It was decided to organize regularly at the first annual meeting, adopt the constitution and elect officers. This meeting was held at Mrs. Taylor's home, March 7, 1896, followed by the first board meeting.

The first Men's Night program was February 22, 1896. Miss Mary McDowell, of the University of Chicago Settlement, was the speaker. Among other speakers were Adjutant Turpin, of the Salvation Army, Miss Julia Lathrop, of Hull House, and Dr. Graham Taylor, of the Chicago Commons Settlement.

March 4, 1897, The Neighbors joined the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Contributions were made each year to local settlements and other charities.

*Mrs. George McClellan, 1897-1898.*—It was decided that at least half the programs should be by home talent and should consist of an essay on some subject chosen by the club, fifteen minutes of current events and music. The word "essayist" remained in the by-laws until 1934, when it was changed to "guest artist." Some of the topics were "The Art of Housekeeping," "Emergencies," "Fires," "Art" and "History of Kenilworth." Membership was 41.

*Mrs. Homer Taylor, 1898-1899.*—Evening meeting addressed by Dr. Graham Taylor, the subject being "The Social Conscience." Mrs. Lucy Fitch Perkins gave a talk on "Design in Common Things."

*Mrs. Charles Ware, 1899-1900.*—An Art League was formed. A picture was given to the Kenilworth School. A minstrel show given, the proceeds for charity. Membership increased to 55.

*Mrs. M. N. Burchard, 1900-1901.*—Glee Club formed, with Mrs. H. Taylor, director; Mrs. Ware, assistant, and Mrs. Cook,



accompanist. Fifty books collected for the traveling libraries. Cooking class formed. Membership, 61.

*Mrs. V. K. Spicer, 1901-1902.*—Current events eliminated from future programs. Rummage sale held in Gross Point Hall, proceeds for charity. Three pictures were presented to the Kenilworth School. A New England supper was held at the village school, followed by a spelling bee, with 128 persons present, the proceeds for Allendale Farm.

*Mrs. Bronson Peck, 1902-1905.*—Christmas sale for charity. Christmas dinners for poor families in Chicago. Supper held at the school house, followed by dancing and merrymaking. Courtesy of The Neighbors extended to the teachers of Kenilworth School. The proceeds of Mrs. Trowbridge's book, "Birds and Flowers of Kenilworth," to be given to the Art League. First real birthday celebrated February 18, 1904. Membership, 82.

*Mrs. V. C. Sanborn, 1905-1907.*—In 1905 an agricultural project, "The Frenzied Farmers' Fair," was held on Mrs. Spicer's grounds, proceeds for the building fund. January 6, 1906, subscribed \$1,000 for building fund of Kenilworth Assembly Hall. A letter was sent to the village board asking that the live trees growing in the streets of the village be spared, which was done for a number of years until it was advisable to straighten the streets. April 25, 1907, the last regular meeting of The Neighbors was held in a home. Mrs. Eastman was the hostess. Furnished Neighbors room. \$50 for juvenile books for the Clara Gould Library in Kenilworth.

*Mrs. V. K. Spicer, 1907-1908.*—First meeting in The Neighbors room of new Assembly Hall was held October 10, 1907. Programs for the year to be on American topics. Prize offered to grade school for best plans for beautifying school grounds. Prize offered for the best Neighbors' song set to the tune, "Auld Lang Syne." The Year Book for 1909-1910 contains Neighbors' song

No. 6 written by Mrs. Kasten. Proceeds of "The Dark Opera" held in new Assembly Hall aided the philanthropy fund.

*Mrs. V. C. Sanborn, 1908-1909.*—The first charity ball was held in the Assembly Hall, November 7, 1908. During the summer entertained women from University Settlement with a box picnic. Contribution for shrubs for the school grounds. Percy Eckhart entertained the club on the first of several occasions with his beautiful travel pictures. Membership, 103.

*Mrs. James E. Keith, 1909-1911.*—Entertained the Tenth District Federation. Held a housekeepers' exhibit in large hall. Entertained the children of the Kenilworth School. Membership, 114.

*Mrs. P. B. Eckhart, 1911-1912.*—Plans made for creating interest in a new school building. Plans for the purchase of a grand piano, Mrs. Cline to be chairman. Bought eyeglasses for two neighborhood children, supplied coal and money for a needy family. Membership, 124.

*Mrs. V. C. Sanborn, 1912-1913.*—A series of lectures on parliamentary law was conducted by Mrs. Plummer. It was announced that women could vote for university trustees and to be sure to register. April 13, 1913, established the Isabelle Lovedale memorial dining room at Park Ridge School for Girls. Later, through Mrs. Sanborn's efforts, the Health Center at Gross Point was opened, and during World War I she rendered many hours of valued service to the community. Membership, 133.

*Mrs. Calvin S. Case, 1913-1915.*—Joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The philanthropy, educational and literature committees presented a number of programs during the year. The charity ball added \$300 to the philanthropy fund. Furnished the Lovedale memorial dining room at Park Ridge, Mrs. Ware chairman. The Neighbors chorus sang on several programs. Membership, 153.

*Mrs. Charles Ware, 1915-1917.*—Purchase of Steinway grand piano, Mrs. Cline chairman. Department meetings were held

regularly. The education department held a series of evening meetings, with Prof. Arthur Guy Terry as speaker. Young ladies' auxiliary was formed, with four members. Mrs. Ware served as president of the Tenth District Federation of Women's Clubs in 1919. Membership, 175.

*Mrs. V. K. Spicer, 1917-1918.*—Devoted largely to emergency bureau activities, Mrs. Spicer took charge of a village war garden and enlisted the services of our grammar school boys. One evening entertainment was given for the benefit of the A. Courtney Campbell, Jr., memorial fund. Membership, 201.

*Mrs. Charles T. Chandler, 1918-1920.*—Kenilworth emergency work, which included the Red Cross, community gardens, Navy Club at Waukegan and the Uncle Sam's Club in our village. Members of Neighbors subscribed \$95,500 to the Fourth Liberty Loan. Twenty-fifth birthday party celebrated. Boys' Glee Club, directed by Mrs. Hulburt, gave a program. Membership, 215.

*Mrs. Calvin S. Case, 1920-1922.*—Dues were changed to \$10, \$3 of which was for the philanthropy fund. The charity balls were discontinued. Membership, 236.

*Mrs. Mark W. Cresap, 1922-1924.*—Joined the Conference of Club Presidents and Program Chairmen. Monthly meetings of art and literature departments. Gallery tour at Art Institute conducted by Mrs. Pauline Palmer. Morning programs on current events by Miss Julie Adams.

*Mrs. John Howard Jones, 1924-1926.*—Collect for Club Women introduced into Year Book. Through infant welfare committee \$1,500 was contributed to New Trier Station. Rugs and curtains purchased for Isabelle Lovedale memorial dining room at Park Ridge School and yearly contribution increased to \$25. Membership, 266.

*Mrs. J. K. Farley, Jr., 1926-1928.*—Regular meetings changed to Tuesdays. Built up Junior membership from two to twenty-eight members; they organized as The Junior Neighbors of Kenil-

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

worth, with Bernice Bulley as first president. They furnished gifts and clothing for a dependent girl for a year. They took charge of the Red Cross membership drive, soliciting the entire village Armistice Day afternoon. Membership, 278.

*Mrs. C. Howard Bent, 1928-1930.*—Special parties for seventy-one new members were held for the first time. Junior and department meetings supplemented the regular meetings. Annual joint meetings with the Kenilworth League of Women Voters were inaugurated. Active members of thirty consecutive years' standing became eligible for emeritus membership. \$1,000 contributed to Kenilworth Memorial Gymnasium. Membership, 330.

*Mrs. V. K. Spicer, 1930-1932.*—Men's Night program consisted of an "Old Fashioned Town Meeting." Other events were the Birthday Party, "The Pageant of Shawls" and Reciprocity Day. Membership, 336.

*Mrs. C. Howard Bent, 1932-1934.*—Seventy-six new members admitted. During these depression years expense saved by issuing monthly bulletins instead of Year Books. Encouraged better movie programs in the neighboring theaters by commending the good shows at each Neighbors meeting. The Kenilworth welfare work becoming too great for the philanthropy department; the village board made it a project of the village. Some thirteen families were being cared for. Membership, 280.

*Mrs. Henry G. Zander, Jr., 1934-1936.*—Meetings changed to large Assembly Hall to accommodate increasing attendance. Programs developed to please various tastes, with emphasis on international affairs. Membership, 260.

*Mrs. George W. Vaught, 1936-1938.*—Two Men's Night programs, two gallery tours and morning book reviews. Membership, 270.

*Mrs. Cecil W. Meredith, 1938-1940.*—Eighth grade children of Joseph Sears School entertained at a meeting to hear a talk on



## THE NEIGHBORS OF KENILWORTH

"Bird Lore" by Cleveland Grant. Bechtel's crabapple blossom chosen as club's flower. Over two years before Pearl Harbor, in 1939, the Neighbors sent a petition to the President of the United States and to Congress protesting against the granting of credits and the shipments of equipment and raw materials to the Japanese military government. Celebrated the fortieth birthday party with talks by early members. Membership, 292.

*Mrs. Vernon C. Beebe, 1940-1942.*—A table and chairs were purchased for the platform, also two spotlights and a large American flag. The National Anthem used for the first time to open all regular meetings. Kenilworth Red Cross unit organized. Recipient of complete collection of Year Books for historical records. Established the Fannie Manierre Ware memorial fund at Park Ridge School for Girls. Membership, 300.

*Mrs. Paul C. Clovis, 1942-1944.*—During the World War the Neighbors furnished and maintained a recreation room at Fort Sheridan and one at Camp Skokie from proceeds of two bridge parties, each netting over \$600. Christmas parties given for soldiers by members and their husbands. Membership, 324.

*Mrs. John S. Holmes, 1944-1946.*—Annual birthday luncheon and Men's Night were the high lights. February 20, 1945, celebrated fiftieth anniversary. Part of the program consisted of a skit which was a resume of the history of the club, written by a member and enacted by members wearing typical costumes of various periods of club history. Regular expenditures for philanthropy for the two years amounted to \$2,375. Additional contributions were directed toward agencies helping the war effort, such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, Travelers' Aid, Seeing Eye; also New Trier High School and nurse's scholarship at Evanston Hospital. Membership, 436.

Many other women have rendered valued service to The Neighbors through the years. Some of these are Mrs. Maher, Mrs. Parmelee, Mrs. William Taylor, Mrs. Henry Taylor, Mrs. Pease,

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Mrs. Stolp, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Keehn, Mrs. Ridgway and Mrs. Cline, and time will add many more honored names.

Not to be forgotten is Mrs. Anna Richter, who has been our efficient and faithful cateress for over thirty years.

MRS. J. K. FARLEY, JR.



*Kenilworth's Famous Fountain*



*Kenilworth Hall*





*Kenilworth Union Church*



*Kenilworth Assembly Hall*



## Garden Clubs

### The Kenilworth Garden Club

ON May 28, 1915, ten neighbors of Mrs. Anne Higginson Spicer received post cards inviting them to her home "for a cup of tea and to form a garden club." The neighbors who responded to this invitation and thus became charter members of the first garden club in Kenilworth were Mrs. Charles R. Bull, Mrs. C. K. Blackwood, Mrs. William B. Fitch, Mrs. E. D. Parmelee, Mrs. E. J. Phelps, Mrs. James H. Prentiss, Mrs. Grant Ridgway, Mrs. Victor C. Sanborn, Mrs. E. F. Snyderacker and Mrs. Rufus B. Stolp. These charter members were joined some months later by another small group of gardeners, which brought the total membership up to twenty-five. For ten years the membership was limited to that number.

From 1915 to 1925 Mrs. Spicer remained at the head of the organization, directing its work, and giving advice and aid to new members who entered the club to fill the vacancies left by those who moved away. It was due to her influence and prestige that the Kenilworth Garden Club was invited, in 1923, to become a member of the Garden Club of America.

In her memory the little winding path leading to the artistic formal garden in the park near the station was named the Anne Higginson Spicer Memorial Path, and in 1938 a more permanent memorial was placed at the end of the path and dedicated to both Mr. and Mrs. Spicer. This memorial is a bronze figure of a water baby guarding a bird path, modeled by the distinguished sculptress, Ruth Sherwood. It was the gift of a number of Mrs. Spicer's friends.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

During two June days in 1930, the club held a garden fair, following the pattern of an old English Fair held annually in Chelsea, England. This attracted wide attention in Chicago as well as in the North Shore towns. The proceeds were used for village planting.

The beautifying of the village has always been one of the expressed purposes of the club. As early as 1924 an effort was made to cooperate with the village authorities in planting flowers and shrubs. In 1931 the Kenilworth Garden Club and the Kenilworth Home and Garden Club combined their efforts to encourage the planting of flowering crab trees in the gardens and along the village parkways. Since then, through the efforts of the two clubs, more than six hundred crab trees of many different varieties have been planted.

Every week during the summer months flowers are sent to the city to be distributed under the auspices of the Plant, Fruit and Flower Guild among hospitals, settlements and homes where flowers are a rare treat.

From 1941 to 1945 the club's activities centered almost entirely around war projects, now mostly ended, though it will be necessary to provide flowers in Army and Navy hospitals for some time to come.

Probably the club can soon revert to its original purpose which, in the words of the by-laws, "shall be to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to aid in the protection of native plants, and to encourage civic planting."

The presidents who from the beginning have directed the work of the club are Mrs. Vibe K. Spicer (Anne Higginson Spicer), Mrs. Rufus B. Stolp, Mrs. E. J. Phelps, Mrs. Douglas Flood, Mrs. Mark W. Cresap, Mrs. Gilbert W. Kelly, Mrs. Bentley G. McCloud, Mrs. Hugh A. Foresman, Mrs. Sidney Y. Ball, Mrs. Harold F. Tideman, Mrs. Harry J. Williams and Mrs. John Nuveen, Jr.

The club membership is now made up of forty-nine active gardeners, some of whom live in the neighboring village of Winnetka.

MRS. GILBERT W. KELLY.

### The Kenilworth Home and Garden Club

On March 12, 1923, a group of fifteen Kenilworth friends met at the home of Mrs. Frank Cherry and organized the Kenilworth Home and Garden Club. Three of this original group are still active members: Mrs. Walter Marx, Mrs. John Oleson, Mrs. John Marshall Roberts. The purpose of this club was: "To promote interest in beautifying the home, to stimulate the love and knowledge of gardening amongst amateurs, to aid in the protection of native trees, plants and birds and to encourage civic planting." The membership was limited to twenty-five, but has since been increased to forty as a result of greater activities.

Three meetings are devoted to home programs and the rest to gardening and horticultural problems with civic interest paramount. The programs are generally provided by the members.

The club is a charter member of the Illinois Garden Club and has had several members on that board of governors and has exhibited and won prizes in every one of its garden shows. Its herb garden in 1931 won the gold medal for the outstanding exhibit of the Illinois Garden Show of that year.

The club's vegetable arrangement won the silver medal, the second highest award of the entire show, at the twenty-third national flower and garden show of the Society of American Florists in 1942. Entering three arrangements, the club won three first prizes in the Chicago Garden Festival in 1943.

The club is a charter member of the Chicago Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild and sends flowers and fruits through the summer

and gifts at Christmas to that organization for distribution to the needy. A book is in preparation on the club's outstanding service performed during the war years at Great Lakes and Fort Sheridan hospitals. Generous contribution was made to the landscaping of Vaughn Memorial Hospital.

In 1931, the club established a library of valuable garden books, which was donated to the North Shore Garden Center.

Planting elm trees from the south limits of Kenilworth to the North Western freight house on Green Bay Road was one of the club's early activities.

When the golf grounds in west Kenilworth were subdivided, the club obtained and consummated plans for the development of Park Drive and have since planted specimen trees there.

The club in cooperation with the Kenilworth Garden Club landscaped the grounds of the Sears School when the addition was completed in 1929.

In 1930, financing the services of Jens Jensen, the noted naturalist and landscape architect, the club was instrumental in developing Mahoney Farm into the beautiful park it is today. The club also donated wildflowers from members' gardens and has since planted specimen and memorial trees there. Gifts of members include also the stone fountain and pool, the large martin house and a bronze marker giving a brief history of the property.

As their contribution to the Lincoln Memorial at Springfield, the club built a stone council ring in 1939.

One Sunday each year the club gives flowers to decorate the altars of the two Kenilworth churches.

In 1941 Kenilworth Clippers was organized and sponsored by the club as a junior auxiliary.

Following the depression, the club had vacant lots plowed in west Kenilworth in 1932 through 1934 and in the war years from 1940 to 1945 for community gardens, helping the amateur gardeners with tools, seeds, soil preparation and advice.



## GARDEN CLUBS

Presidents of the club have been Mrs. Frank W. Cherry, Mrs. Charles R. Erwin, Mrs. Charles D. Howe, Mrs. Henry Taylor, Mrs. Theodore Moritz, Mrs. William W. Wheelock, Mrs. Alfred R. Hodge, Mrs. Frederick Bulley, Mrs. Frank C. Nason, Mrs. Herman G. Seely, Mrs. Arthur J. Lindsley, Mrs. William F. Freudenreich, Mrs. Richard C. Johnston, Mrs. J. Wilson McAllister, Mrs. Peter S. Barton, Mrs. Frederic R. Kilner and Mrs. Clemens A. Storch.

MRS. RICHARD C. JOHNSTON.

### Kenilworth Clippers

In the fall of 1940 the Kenilworth Home and Garden Club conceived the idea of organizing a younger group to carry on their activities. They discussed this with Mrs. William C. White, Mrs. David B. Sterrett, Mrs. Thilo M. Best and Mrs. Fred L. Stone, and suggested that daughters of the senior club be included. So, in February of 1941, these women met with the following daughters of the senior group, and organized: Mrs. John Nason, Mrs. William Yonkers, Mrs. Marshall Branch, Mrs. Ernest Humphries, Mrs. Charles Rockcastle and Mrs. F. Postin White.

The constitution drawn was similar to that of the Kenilworth Home and Garden Club. Kenilworth Clippers was the name chosen.

It was soon found desirable to affiliate with the Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild, and the Garden Club of Illinois.

In the five years of its being, the activities of this young club have been many. Through the Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild, the members have contributed hundreds of bouquets of garden flowers, as well as canned goods and jellies, which have gone to Emerson House. At Christmas time they have sent small gifts. During hostilities they sent fifteen dozen cookies each week to the USO in Highwood.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

For two years the members also took flowers to Fort Sheridan twice a month, where they arranged bouquets for the hospitals. And they helped in decorating Christmas trees for Camp Skokie in Glenview.

The Clippers have been prominent among other clubs in their displays at flower shows, having won a red, white or blue ribbon each year.

From the original group of fourteen members, the club has grown in size to the present number of thirty.

Mrs. Thilo Best was the first president. She was followed by Mrs. William Schweitzer, Mrs. Harvey Scribner and Mrs. George Rigler.

MRS. GEORGE RIGLER.

### Kenilworth Junior Garden Club

The Kenilworth Junior Garden Club was organized in March, 1932. Its first members were daughters and relatives of its sponsor, the Kenilworth Garden Club, but later other members were taken in. Membership was limited to thirty.

As a member of the Illinois Garden Club, the Kenilworth Juniors have participated in its flower shows and in its Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild contributions. It has held many flower shows of its own, as well as frequently exhibiting in those on the North Shore.

During 1941-43 the club furnished a day room at Fort Sheridan. During 1944-45, due to outside war undertakings of its members, it became inactive. In 1946 it hopes to renew its activity.

Presidents during the past fourteen years have been: Mrs. Otis Heath, Mrs. Robert Olmsted, Mrs. Allan Bulley, Mrs. Herbert Lucas, Mrs. Harold McKenzie, Mrs. Leonard Paidar and Mrs. LeRoy Shelton.

MRS. LEON ELLIS.

# Kenilworth Travel Club



ON the discolored pages of a faded blue notebook are recorded, in the immature handwriting of the present writer, the first notes of the study class which was the beginning of the Kenilworth Travel Club.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Murray Ware, October 14, 1895, called by a committee appointed by the Neighbors for the purpose of organizing a study class. Associated with Mrs. Ware on this committee were Mrs. Trowbridge and Miss Hinman. A new committee, formed to plan the program, was composed of Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Trowbridge and Mrs. Wardwell.

An imaginary journey was decided upon as the subject of study, and at the third meeting, October 28, 1895, it was decided to invite men as members and to meet on Monday evenings.

Enthusiastic acceptance of this invitation sped the progress of organization, and a typed program was drawn up with the assistance of George Cutter, who had traveled in Russia. It had been decided to travel to the North Cape, through Sweden, Norway and Russia, and this program, which still exists among the archives of the Kenilworth Historical Society, bears eloquent testimony to the thoroughness and seriousness of these travelers. An unescapable condition of membership was the obligation of each member to write a paper on the subject assigned him on the program. In spite of this hardship, membership was at a premium.

That first year of the Travel Club culminated in an unforgettable evening at the Adams' home on the lake, when a few privileged guests were admitted, rich costumes of the countries visited were worn, the house was transformed into a Russian bazaar, we all tasted vodka, caviare and Russian cigarettes and played we were really there! Such final meetings became the tradition of the Travel Club.

The minutes of 1899 evidence an interesting study of China. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Barrett were joint presidents, and Sam Merwin was secretary for the first few meetings, after which Ben Hinman became secretary. The final meeting, "An Evening in Japan," was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Adams.

In 1900, the first printed program of the Travel Club appeared. The subject was Africa, and in fourteen meetings the club covered its geography, ethnology, history and religions. Mr. Morse and Mrs. Adams were presidents, Mrs. Trowbridge, secretary. A costume party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spicer, April 23, was the finale.

Many new members marked the year 1901, when Warren Pease was president, Mrs. Spicer, vice-president, and Mrs. Trowbridge, secretary and treasurer. Subject, Spanish America. Final meeting was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maher, at which Mrs. Trowbridge was elected president and Miss Hall, secretary, for the ensuing year.

Italy was visited in 1902, and the final meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maher was a regular program followed by election of Mr. Sanborn, president, Mrs. Harry Taylor, vice-president, and Mrs. Morse, secretary and treasurer.

In 1903 the meetings were held every two weeks and subjects chosen at the writers' will. The next printed program was for the year 1906 and was entitled "Bits of Travel."

"The Old World and the New" was the subject for 1908. From 1909 to 1916 there was no general title for program; the



## KENILWORTH TRAVEL CLUB

subjects were individually chosen, and the programs were models of good taste in printing and format. The approach of our entrance into World War I was in the air, and although officers were chosen for 1917, Mrs. Spicer for president, Dr. F. H. Martin, vice-president, and Percy Eckhart, secretary and treasurer, there were no minutes for that year or afterward.

LUCY DUNCAN HALL.

# League of Women Voters



**I**N 1926, just seven years after women were granted the ballot, the Kenilworth League of Women Voters was organized. Previously a small group of civic-minded women became affiliated with, and attended the meetings of, the Winnetka League.

In 1926, however, it became apparent that the Kenilworth group was strong enough to form its own organization. Accordingly, in May of that year thirty-four women met and organized the Kenilworth League of Women Voters. The object of the league then formed was the same as it is today, namely, the political education of its members in order to aid in the development of an intelligent electorate.

Mrs. Mark W. Cresap was the organizing chairman and the first president of the league. Mrs. E. F. Snyder succeeded her in the presidency. It was the unremitting efforts of Mrs. Snyder that held the league together during the critical years of the depression, when many new organizations failed. Following her, in the order of their service, were Mrs. Harry Olin, Mrs. Robert P. Warren, Mrs. Ardis M. Kennedy, Mrs. George I. Bell, Mrs. Harry J. Williams and Mrs. George Siebel.

The league now has a membership of 116. Once a month from October to May luncheon meetings are held to discuss and to help clarify important governmental issues, both domestic and foreign. Study groups are held in the homes on government and foreign policy, government and economic welfare, government

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

and social welfare, government and its operation. After thorough study of these issues, the league uses its influence in the halls of Congress and in the General Assembly at Springfield. Its influence is also felt in the affairs of Cook County and the local community. The league is a nonpartisan organization, endorsing principles rather than parties or personalities.

MRS. GILBERT W. KELLY.

# Kenilworth Infant Welfare



**W**ISHING to interest younger women in Infant Welfare, for which it made collections for Seward Park station, the Neighbors of Kenilworth relinquished all associations when in January, 1932, Phyllis Ruf (Mrs. Kelsey Sanders), inspired by her mother's interest, organized such a group with five other young Kenilworth women as charter members: Katherine Stolp, Alice Clause, Helene Seibold, Avis Lundahl and Virginia Prussing.

From the beginning, meetings were held the second Tuesday of every month from 11:00 to 3:30 at the Kenilworth Union Church, including business, luncheon served by members, and sewing and knitting for the Jack and Jill Shop. This began as a traveling suitcase of infant's wear, salable to members and friends; today it is exhibited each Friday at the Hearthstone House, Winnetka, and at clubs desiring. To promote friendliness, Jack and Jill sewing and cutting meetings are held in the homes.

To Kenilworth and Highland Park-Ravinia is allocated Seward Park station, at Sedgwick and Elm Streets, Chicago. At two weekly conferences throughout the year, Thursday and Friday, Kenilworth volunteers assist the doctors and nurses and do clerical work for this prenatal and baby clinic, considering this its most important service. Kenilworth's quota of the \$10,000 annual budget is \$3,100. Toward this last year the Kenilworth Community Chest gave \$1,500. The remainder was raised through dues of \$5 per



## KENILWORTH INFANT WELFARE

member, profits of the Jack and Jill Shop, a rummage sale and a cocktail party at the Saddle and Cycle Club. For the second time Kenilworth went over the top, to the total of \$4,575. From this, \$500 was sent as a gift to the nurses' insured retirement fund. In 1946 the \$2,400 profits on a Packard made possible contributions of \$4,700.

From six to sixty active members, its quota, the group has grown during its seventeen years. Membership is by invitation and now includes friends along the North Shore.

# Skokie Valley Chapter D.A.R.



THE Skokie Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized December 31, 1925, by Mrs. Israel C. Cope at her home, 239 Essex Road, Kenilworth, to which suburb she had moved in 1910. There were thirteen charter members, residents of the North Shore, namely: Mrs. Israel C. Cope, Mrs. Percy B. Eckhart, Mrs. Mark W. Cresap, Mrs. Edwin Hedrick, Mrs. Karl Korrady, Mrs. Grant Ridgway, Kenilworth; Mrs. George J. Pope, Glencoe; Mrs. Frederick Besley, Waukegan; Mrs. Albert H. Veeder, Winnetka; Mrs. Edward L. Scheidenhelm, Wilmette; Mrs. Charles S. Jackson, Miss Carol Jackson, Hubbard Woods; Mrs. Robert Schrefler, Evanston.

The objects of the Skokie Valley Chapter were in general the same as those of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution; that is, "Historical, Educational and Patriotic." More specifically, the objectives include perpetuation of the memory of the founders of American independence; preservation of historical records, documents and objects; marking historic sites and fostering patriotism through education.

Eight regents have served the chapter during the two decades of its existence. They were Mrs. Israel C. Cope, Mrs. Frederick Bowes, Mrs. Charles Jackson, Mrs. Jesse K. Farley, Mrs. George Shipman, Mrs. Wilfred Nabors, Mrs. Otto Ruth, Mrs. David DeCamp.

In promotion of patriotic education and good citizenship the

chapter has helped in the free distribution of D. A. R. citizenship manuals to new citizens, presentation of flags to Girl Scout organizations, awarding of prizes to Illinois high school students for essays on patriotic subjects, contributions to southern schools approved by the D. A. R., welfare work at Ellis Island, marking of historic sites and Red Cross activities in World War II.

In 1934 a bronze tablet was placed on the north post of the lych-gate of Christ Church, on Sheridan Road, in Winnetka. The inscription thereon commemorates the site of the first Winnetka Church, the first cemetery consecrated in 1876 and also the site across the street of the first inn, called the "Lake View" or "Patterson Tavern," on the old Indian Green Bay Trail used by Marquette, Hennepin, Joliet, La Salle and Tonti.

A detailed and comprehensive account of the settlement and history of the North Shore was compiled by Mrs. E. L. Scheidenhelm, a charter member, and is preserved in the archives of the chapter.

MRS. LAURA DURGIN.

# Kenilworth Activities in World War I



**A**UGUST, 1917, Kenilworth blossomed out as the premier patriotic community of the nation in a number of press dispatches. There was not a drafted boy or unmarried man left when the conscription bill was passed. All enlisted before the draft came. Only six were exempted because of physical disability. Ranking among its officers was Major Franklin Martin, of the National Defense Council, internationally famous physician, for his work in mobilizing the medical profession of the United States to receive decorations from three governments. A bulletin board operated by the Kenilworth Club registered all the news of the enlisted. Backing them was one of the unique organizations of the war, the Kenilworth Emergency Bureau.

## Kenilworth Emergency Bureau

In March, 1917, several women, responding to a call by Miss Dorothy Sears to consider doing Red Cross work, formed instead the Kenilworth Emergency Bureau to assist the government to provide efficiency in the conduct of the war, the supporting of the Red Cross its chief function. Officers were Mrs. Franklin Martin, president; Mrs. V. K. Spicer, vice-president; Miss Dorothy Sears, secretary; Miss Caroline Harris, treasurer. It was soon to include the following:





*One of the "Indian Trail" Trees (Cumnor Road)*



*Original Boat and Bathing House*



*Entrance to Ann Higginson Spicer Memorial Path*



*One of the Gates Opening Upon the Ware Memorial Garden*



*Red Cross Auxiliary 241:* By late summer the six homes offered as meeting places expanded to the Assembly Hall with all villagers welcomed and by late November to the more spacious quarters of the Union Church, membership including over three-fourths of the women and girls of Kenilworth. By women working under four divisions—hospital garments, knitting, surgical dressings and refugee garments—56,140 articles were turned out and large collections of clothing for Allied relief made. Knitting was done for men of the Battleship Illinois and drafted men from the New Trier district. Comfort kits were furnished and at Christmas 100 bags sent. Of the 180 pupils at the Joseph Sears School, 125 were organized into a Junior Red Cross, sewing, knitting, sorting safety pins, raising money by articles made and sold. The group meeting in the interest of the American Fund for French Wounded, begun in the home of Mrs. Grant Ridgway as the initial war effort, affiliated, adding their quota. Charles Ware was associate director of the Central District of the Red Cross Association and chairman of the Red Cross drive for Kenilworth. The men's Red Cross drive, headed by Mark W. Cresap, canvassed every home, and among North Shore villages Kenilworth took the lead.

*Council of National Defense:* Through this affiliation, 276 women registered at the annual meeting of the Neighbors, offering an amazing variety of talents, one item offering interpreting in seventeen languages. One hundred and twelve children were weighed and measured, leading after the war to the Gross Point Health Center.

*Community Gardens:* After disking, plowing and planting the former athletic field at Leicester Road and Woodstock Avenue, offered by the Sears Estate, and the lot of the Holy Comforter Church, the services of the boys were enlisted in raising crops. The money realized was used in adopting a French war orphan.

*Uncle Sam's Club:* Recognizing its facilities and the efficiency

of its emergency board, the War Recreation Board of Illinois requested that Kenilworth form a club for uniformed men to be known as Uncle Sam's Club. This "blithy" was organized under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles Ware, depending upon the community for its personal and financial aid. The Union Church offered its gymnasium, its guild room was converted into a lounge, an outdoor playground opened from 2:30 to 11:30 each Sunday and suppers served at 10 cents per plate. The Kenilworth Club opened its tennis courts and the beach and boathouse for swimming. Kenilworth men conducted games, singing and automobile rides. Kenilworth matrons and grand matrons of World War II recall the tea dances in the gymnasium in World War I.

*Food Conservation:* The women met every Friday to hear discussed the latest food administration orders and receive recipes. Again the village made headlines: "Kenilworth Pioneers in Wheatless Drive—Takes Leading Part in Food Conservation of Nation."

*Patriotic Rallies:* These brought the nation's foremost speakers, spurring the villagers on. For these the Boy's Home Guard, the Men's Home Guard and High School Cadets formed a double rank as escort, extending the entire length of the Assembly Hall.

*Extra Village Activities:* Contributions were made through the Y. W. C. A. to the Great Lakes Hostess House and to the Ravinia Canteen, official headquarters for uniformed men in off hours, each North Shore town taking its turn at serving the 800 boys per night. One worker and two board members were given the Illinois Training Farm for Women at Libertyville. The Navy Club at Waukegan, where every eighth week were provided food, musical and dramatic entertainment, was the village war pet.

*Liberty Loan Drives:* Through four Liberty Loan drives, James Prentiss, chairman, saw Kenilworth over the top. Its purchase of Liberty Bonds during World War I amounted to over



one million dollars, or more than \$5,000 per family or \$1,000 per person, including the nearly five per cent of its population that had volunteered for services before the first draft.

## Memorials

In the Kenilworth Club hung the pictures of our boys who fought in Europe. In the French Aero Club of America hung a plaque presented by France as a memorial to the dead of the famous LaFayette Escadrille, one of its eleven names Courtney Campbell, Kenilworth's first gold star. The American Friends for French Wounded in Kenilworth, affiliated with the Red Cross, assisted by the Neighbors, fostered the Andrew Courtney Campbell Memorial Hospital behind the lines.

Three memorial windows in the guild room of the Kenilworth Union Church were dedicated by the Sunday School to its three Gold Stars: Franklin Bellows, Pursell Macklin and Manierre Ware. In 1929 the Joseph Sears School gymnasium was dedicated as the village memorial. In 1927 Charles and Fannie Manierre Ware placed in the park across from the Assembly Hall a memorial granite block with bronze plaque designed by the Chicago sculptor Albin Polasek, inscribed, "Let us make earth a garden where the deeds of the valiant may blossom and bear fruit." It is dedicated to Kenilworth's five gold stars: Manierre Barlow Ware, 1895-1918, 1st Lieut., 362nd Inf.; Franklin Barney Bellows, 1896-1918, 2nd Lieut., 50th Aero Squadron; Charles Pursell Macklin, 1898-1918, 1st Lieut., Royal Air Force; Andrew Courtney Campbell, 1891-1917, Sergt.-Pilot, LaFayette Escadrille; Walter Schulze, 1893-1919, Capt., 138th Aero Squadron.

Here each Memorial Day, following a parade, services are held to honor Kenilworth's war dead. At the Memorial Day services in 1919, students marched from the school to the Assem-

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

bly Hall, singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," the glee club sang and Virginia Hedrick recited. Musical numbers were also given by Mrs. J. A. Smale and the Montague Opera Quartette. The invocation was by the Rev. David Beaton, the address by the Rev. F. W. Gunsaulus and the benediction by the Rev. H. B. Gwyn.

# Kenilworth Activities in World War II



## American Red Cross

THE Kenilworth unit of the American Red Cross opened January, 1941, at the Kenilworth Union Church, where grateful use was made of the equipment of the guild. From a modest beginning, the number of workers increased tremendously following Pearl Harbor day. At the start of 1942, training courses in first aid, home nursing, food and nutrition and accident prevention were given to hundreds of women. The police force and several groups of men had evening classes in first aid. 1942 also saw the start of the Junior Red Cross program. The mobile blood donor bank came to town for two days, and the maximum numbers were on hand. 1942 and 1943 saw the start of the recruiting program for the special volunteer services. Dozens of Grey Ladies have served in both civilian and military hospitals; staff assistants worked in hospitals, blood banks and demobilization centers; canteeners and dietitian aides were placed in hospitals, blood banks, airport canteens and emergency disaster centers. Motor corps drivers were equally adept chauffeuring generals, casualties or supplies in Army and Navy trucks. Two Kenilworth artists enriched the arts and skills program. Four home service workers became busier than ever as the problems of the returned service man and his family increased. Kenilworth

was represented on the speakers' bureau and can claim the chairman of that department in Chicago. The Nurses' Aide Corps attracted both young and old in large numbers.

Production was speeded up to meet the greatly increased quotas of wartime. Kenilworth reached its peak of production in 1944 and moved into the top spot of the North Shore units when it turned in 347,000 surgical dressings, or one seventy-fifth of the amount produced by the whole Chicago chapter. The peak month showed 200 workers registered in the workrooms. The head of the North Shore depot introduced the chairman, Mrs. Ward Starrett, "as head of that unit that never finds a quota too big or the deadline too soon or that has ever failed to take over when extra work must be done."

Over the four and one-half years were produced hundreds of hospital garments, layette articles, women's, men's and children's wearing apparel, kit bags, servicemen's sweaters, gloves, mufflers and helmets, and thousands of pairs of scuffs made from salvaged bits of suitable materials, knitted squares which were put together for afghans for the boys in wheel chairs. Fourteen workers were enrolled on the 2,000 Honor Roll plaque at headquarters, and dozens earned their chevrons for four years' service with a minimum of 244 hours per year.

The generosity, interest and originality of the Kenilworth citizens was outstanding in their response to the Red Cross war fund drives. For five years the village operated a "One Night—Lights On" campaign, later dubbed the "Kenilworth One Night Quickie" by the other communities in the county and state adopting this type of canvass. 1945 was the biggest year as to amount raised; with a quota of \$15,000, receipts finally totaled \$24,000. March 4, 1946, proved the banner night of drives, when Roland D. Feltman, who served as Red Cross drive chairman for five years, received a national Red Cross citation for his outstanding service. Henry Tenney, head of the Chicago chapter, made the



presentation. In all five drives Kenilworth was first over the top and completed each drive in one evening, totaling a large percentage over its quota.

## War Bond Drives

One-night drives were used in the successful war bond campaigns, in which Kenilworth bought \$8,434,340 in bonds. This record was achieved by a group of 200 women, headed by Mrs. Harry S. Demaree, Mrs. John Nuveen, Jr., and Mrs. Walter Marx.

## Girls' Service Organization

The Kenilworth Girls' Service Organization came into being when Mrs. Joseph Joyce thought of the idea while lunching at the Wayside Inn one afternoon in December, 1941. The service men at the Inn had little or nothing to do in their time off. With the help of Mrs. Merritt H. Dement, she put the idea into reality.

To an advertisement requesting girls to volunteer for service, eighteen young women responded and took part in the first K. G. S. O. dance, January 2, 1942. During the war, the club kept up a top quota of 200 members at one time, with a waiting list to fill any vacancies. Eight to ten dances were given each month—each girl attended at least three to maintain her active membership.

On Washington's birthday in 1942, Mrs. Joyce and Mrs. Dement founded a mother organization—the Kenilworth Service Organization—comprised of 175 women whose job was to furnish chaperons and refreshments for all the parties. During four years, approximately 12,000 cakes, 7,500 pounds of cookies, 1,000 gallons of ice cream and countless sandwiches were served by them.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The dances and parties were held at different centers—Fort Sheridan, Waukegan, Glenview, Camp Skokie Valley, Highland Park and sometimes Great Lakes. In 1943, one of the parties at Waukegan was so exceptional it was written up in Life magazine a few months later.

In the women's organization, Mrs. Joyce was president, Mrs. Dement, assistant director and chaperone chairman; Mrs. A. C. Philips, vice-president; Mrs. Goodwin T. Wilson, treasurer; Mrs. Frank Peters, secretary, and Mrs. John W. Urice, general food chairman.

Officers in the Girls' Organization, of which Mrs. Joyce was also president, were: Jane Darger, vice-president; Kay McGivern, treasurer; Elizabeth Hoffman, bus chairman; Ann Hoffman, social chairman; Gertrude Pape, membership secretary; Lois Howard, social secretary; Irene Faulkenberg, chairman of convalescent parties; Eleanor Endersbee, recording secretary; Marion Philips, historian, and Mildred LeVoy, publicity chairman.

MILDRED LEVOY.

### Office of Civilian Defense

At a special meeting of the village board, December 21, 1942, the Kenilworth Council of the Office of Civilian Defense was established, with Walter H. Anderson as chairman. Within a short time, divisions had been set up, with chairmen and vice-chairmen as follows: Fire—John L. Wilds, Richard C. Johnston. Police—Julien H. Collins, Raymond J. Hurley. Medical—Mrs. Harold F. Tideman, Mrs. Frank E. Peters. Public works—Conger Reynolds, Albert E. Attebury. Maintenance of vital services—Paul C. Clovis, C. M. Baumgardner. Public relations and education—Mrs. Harold Anderson, Mrs. Robert P. Warren. Volunteer office—Mrs. Thompson M. Wakeley, Mrs. George Dodge.

A registration of everyone in the village interested in war

work was taken immediately and a detailed card index set up at the office showing each one's interests and abilities. Volunteer workers were drawn from this list as needed from time to time during the war years.

The village was organized into zones, each having its own chief wardens, police and fire wardens, totaling 160 men. These were thoroughly trained in air-raid protection, black-out regulations, handling of incendiary bombs, protection against gas and fire, and in addition in first aid. James Surpless headed this work. First aid instruction was given by Dr. Howard Goodsmith and Dr. Roy Bracken.

A canvass of the village was made for first aid emergency equipment and a complete card file of this maintained in the office.

Kenilworth women provided the personnel for the Ninth District air raid warning control center at Evanston one day a week. Approximately sixty Victory gardens in five community plots were undertaken.

Proceeds from the sale of salvage made possible a cash balance on December 1, 1945, of \$1,449.48 after reimbursement had been made the village for advances made the OCD in the early weeks of the war.

March 24, 1942, Mr. Anderson turned over the chairmanship of the council to Harry P. Harrison, who was succeeded later by John Krause. Upon the death of Mr. Krause, Julien Collins was appointed to this position on February 26, 1945.

The Honor Roll plaque opposite the railroad station was constructed at the Joseph Sears School. The constantly changing list of men in service originally compiled by Mrs. George Jones reached 322, of which thirteen were in time preceded by gold stars—James W. Clements, Albert Fleischmann, Jr., William N. Cooter, John Austin Doty, Arthur R. Foss, Jr., Robert A. Johnson, James H. Kingsley, John H. Lawson, Jr., Robert C. McEwen,

Fergus Mead, Jr., William T. Meyers, William L. Mitten and Robert M. Thomas.

## Office of Price Administration

The Kenilworth Office of Price Administration opened its doors in a small room above the village offices on January 9, 1942. Oliver Barrett had been named chairman of this "ration board," with Julius Peterson vice-chairman. Some months later A. R. Peterson was made a member. At this time the only items rationed were tires and automobiles.

Within a short time fuel oil, gasoline, sugar, coffee and canned goods were added to the list, and the board was enlarged in November, 1942, to include William A. Moulton and Mrs. Robert P. Warren. Upon resignation of Mr. Barrett, Mr. Moulton was appointed chairman, serving for the duration of the war.

Registration of every resident in Kenilworth was held on two separate occasions, first for gasoline and then for sugar rationing. This work was accomplished by a group of forty-seven volunteer women of the village under the direction of Elmer Nygaard.

Shoes, meat, cheese and fats were added to the list of rationed commodities, and more help was needed to handle more applications and complaints. Later members of the board included C. M. Baumgardner, Mrs. George Dodge, Mrs. Harry S. Demaree and William F. Mueller.

MRS. ROBERT P. WARREN.



# Kenilworth Boy Scouts



THE Kenilworth troop of Boy Scouts was organized in 1919 by a group of seven or eight boys. Some of them appear in the accompanying picture, which includes, from left to right: Elbridge Keith, Humbert Tinsman, David Burnham, Robert Danly, Archer Kennedy, Jack Lockett, Robert Prentiss, Herbert Newport, Robert Bell and Langley Isham. In the original squad, but not in the picture, were Walter Shattuck, Jr., and Graham Fitch.

Carl Keith was the first scout master, and Walter Shattuck, Jr., assistant. In 1921 Roy Jarrett became scout master. The following year Bob Townley began his long career of voluntary service as scout master, in addition to his duties as physical education instructor at the Joseph Sears School. In those twenty-five years the Kenilworth troop has become one of the largest groups of Boy Scouts, numbering 75 to 100 each year. It has produced more Eagle Scouts than any other troop on the North Shore, twelve receiving their pins at the 1945 Court of Honor. Troop 13 has ranked never below third in the 150 troops in the North Shore area in the ten years since the troop rating plan was adopted.

The annual Scout Circus, last held in 1941, that year drew an audience of 1,200 persons, raising money for the Scout and Cub drum and bugle corps, the only one in the North Shore area.

Frank Watts, who lost his life in World War II, was the first Eagle Scout in Troop 13.

## KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The Cub Scouts started in 1932 in Kenilworth, one of several experimental groups selected by the national body. Every boy eligible to become a Cub in Kenilworth has been a Cub—a record unequaled in other communities.

Bob Townley took Scout training for a month in 1910 before becoming Scout master of Milwaukee Troop I. After two years at Wisconsin State Teachers' College and then two years in Canada as Y. M. C. A. secretary, he made a name in football at Northwestern University, where his education was interrupted by service in the infantry of the Third Division from January, 1918, until the autumn of 1919. Upon graduation from Northwestern in 1921, he became perennial scout master at Kenilworth.

# Kenilworth Girl Scouts



THE first organization in Kenilworth for younger girls was a Campfire Group under the leadership of Miss Estelle Farley and later under Miss Dora Jean Bluthardt. For a year or two this group was active, working on leather goods, going on picnics and day hikes and working for Merit Beads.

Members of this first Campfire group were: Jane Bisbee, Frances Bluthardt, Pat. Bower (Speed), Hester Dillon, Pat. Davis, Brenna Hawley, Prudence Johnson, Virginia Johnston, Joy Mervis, Dorell Moulton, Barbara Olson, Dorothy Raggio (Bowman), Betty Rich, Mary Snoddy (Beers), Nancy Wilds (Davidson).

In the school year 1928-29 Girl Scout Troop 1 was formed, and during the following year Troop 2 was organized to make room for the additional girls that wanted to become Scouts. Miss Gertrude Herrick, physical education teacher at Joseph Sears School, was the captain of both of the troops and was assisted by Miss Marjorie Stanton (Mills) and Miss Marian Anderson, who was then a senior at New Trier.

Troop patrol leaders and corporals were Josephine Dahn, Lucille Brenner, Beverly Bouchard, Jeanette Post, Sue Carpenter, Carol Wilson, Jane Harrison, Dorothy Deacon, Annette Williams, Marcia Huck, Barbara Clark, Mary Huck.

These troops were under the jurisdiction of a community committee from October, 1929, to January, 1935, when they first registered with the region.

The fall of 1929 found the girls taking the first scout over-

night hike, an event that all scouts look forward to. Ten girls made the trip over to the Indiana sand dunes.

During this same year a room in the Joseph Sears School was turned over to the girls to be used for their meetings and is still being used for that purpose.

The first community service project taken over by the Girl Scouts was to furnish a quart of milk a day to each of the four children in a needy Chicago family. To raise money for this a food sale was held January 21, 1930, at which they raised \$32.37. During the years of World War II the Girl Scouts gave literally hundreds of hours of service to the Office of Civilian Defense and to the Evanston Hospital.

On February 24, 1930, the first Girl Scout court of awards was held, at which the girls received their advancement awards and the merit badges that had been earned up to this point.

In the spring of 1934 a group of mothers took a course of training in order to become leaders in this ever-growing organization. Mrs. Walter Noble Gillett became the first Girl Scout commissioner in January, 1935. Since then Mrs. J. A. Petersen, Mrs. Paul Schulze, Mrs. Leonard Paidar, Mrs. M. W. Branch, Mrs. A. R. Peterson, Mrs. Willard Grimm and Mrs. Alan C. Hovey have held this position.

The first Senior Scout Troop, the Mariner Ship Frontenac, was organized in 1937. Mrs. Arthur Wakeley was instrumental in bringing this about. During the year she became regional chairman for Senior Girl Scouts of Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan and served in this capacity for several years.

Kenilworth now has four intermediate Girl Scout troops and one Brownie troop.

During the years from 1929 to the present practically every girl of scout age attending Sears school and many of those attending other schools have been Girl Scouts.

PHOEBE BLEECKER.



# Indian Days



SCANT reference appears in the history of Indian days to the area that is now Kenilworth. This might have been different but for the vagaries of the French priests who were the early explorers of this territory. The canoes of the more famous were paddled past this stretch of lake front, but Father Pierre Francois Pinet, S. J., came ashore here in 1696 and founded the Mission of the Guardian Angel (L'Ange Gardien) adjoining a village of Miami Indians on the western edge of present-day Kenilworth. Father Pinet, according to the Jesuit chronicles, evidently was not favored with the support of the heads of the order in Canada, and the mission was abandoned in 1699 or early in 1700. Its location was believed to be on Ridge Road, at a point due west of the Kenilworth railroad station, according to a paper read by Frank R. Grover, vice-president of the Evanston Historical Society, before members of that society and the Chicago Historical Society, November 27, 1906, and published in pamphlet form by the latter organization. Mr. Grover, who also read before the Chicago Historical Society, February 21, 1905, an address on "Some Indian Land Marks of the North Shore," was an uncle of Dr. Rufus Stolp, leader in the Kenilworth Historical Society later.

In a pamphlet about Antoine Ouilmette (whose name was given to the neighboring suburb of Wilmette) published by the Evanston Historical Society in 1908, Mr. Grover mistakenly laid in Kenilworth the site of the log cabin in which the famous Indian's daughter Elisabeth married her first husband, Michael

Welsh, "the first Irishman in Chicago," on May 11, 1830. He wrote:

"This wedding . . . was celebrated in an old log cabin that stood until 1903 on the east side of Sheridan Road at Kenilworth and about two blocks north of the Kenilworth water tower. . . . This cabin was built by one John Doyle. . . . Ouilmette and his family lived in this cabin at the time of the wedding and for some time thereafter, although their most permanent abode was about a mile south of there."

From the recollection of early residents of Kenilworth, the location of the Indian cabin was in Winnetka, a few hundred feet north of the Kenilworth boundary line, on pasture land adjoining his home and rented by Joseph Sears. It was occupied by Robert Hadley, colored coachman of the Sears, and then torn down in 1903.

The permanent abode of Antoine Ouilmette, as noted above, was on the lake front in Wilmette, probably just east of the Michigan Shores club house. Antoine Ouilmette, a Frenchman, was the husband of Archange Ouilmette, a Pottawatomie, who received two sections of land by the treaty of 1829 (Prairie du Chien) made by the United States government with the Pottawatomie, Chippewa and the Ottawa tribes. The Ouilmette reservation stretched from what is now Central Street, Evanston, to Elmwood Avenue, Wilmette, and from the lake westward.

The only existing trace of the Indians in Kenilworth today is what is believed by some to be an Indian trail tree at 416 Cumnor Road.

# To Each His Own



REVIEWING the manuscript of this book when it was presented at the annual dinner of the Kenilworth Historical Society, December 4, 1946, Mrs. Virginia Hedrick Leimert noted the necessary omission of the many bits of childhood memories that are dear to those who have grown up in Kenilworth, an omission required in order to present the accurate and factual account of the village history in the space available. Each reader of this volume has his or her own memories, which will be recalled to give life and color to the outline here presented. She truly said:

"The story of Kenilworth isn't all in this book. You find it, however, between the lines. Naturally, you find it in your own memories, too, and each of us has a different set.

"For myself, I can't help feeling a wee bit sorry for the present generation of Kenilworth small fry because they don't have Mr. Spicer's famous garden and play house, for instance—or the wonderful woods in which to gather trilliums, buttercups and marsh marigolds, with customers eager to pay you 10 cents a bunch!

"Or a Thorsen's livery stable, with surreys that had a real fringe on top—who can forget the luxury of a ride in a Thorsen cab, spiced by Dobbin's fragrant aroma, and the hazard of a missing floor board or two? Or a Grandpa Taylor with a pipe of tobacco in every handy lilac bush. Or a Cap Murray on his bicycle to haul you home after dark from the ice on the beach.

"Or the memory of moonlit nights, *not* to meet Arny or Fred

Marks, ladder on shoulder, pedaling from lamppost to lamppost to turn on the gas.

"Or the Ridgways' canoe, which got ceremoniously launched during those faraway wonderful floods—or a homemade boat, for a fast cruise down the Skokie ditch. Or a Mrs. Henry Riggs Rathbone (and senator) with her fantastic \$108 hand-painted hat. (I for one could never figure out what the eight dollars was for.)

"Or a dangerous pier, and a dive on a rough day, with a quick grab at the ladder as the current swept you by.

"Or a Dingy Forbes with his poor wild shaggy pony that the kids hitched sleds to in winter. Or a Mrs. Eastman who was said to have calcimined the sparrows in lovely colors, though it all came off in the first good rain, and how she got hold of them in the first place was always a fascinating mystery.

"Or a Walter Doerr's drug store where you could spend at least a part of your Sunday School money in a sunny, shabby cubby hole of a soda fountain. Or a Mr. Benham who had us recruiting members for the Union Sunday School like a team of hungry talent scouts.

"Or the Mahoney farm, to crawl breathlessly down the corn rows and imagine the Mahoneys were after you. Or a Sears' or Pease's garden, where sun-ripened melons seemed to beckon.

"Or a private ski slide on the bluff across from Edmonds, where one could coast on barrel staves right out on the ice. Or the excitement of a wild cucumber fight, or a water tower to climb with a secret 'club room' at the top. Or a Wells Fargo Express Co. driver, 'Red Nose Paddy,' and a swell 'hitch' on a frosty Saturday morn—or the caves along Leicester Road during the week of the 'big snow.'

"Well, the list of memories is endless, and to each his own!"



















LAKE MICHIGAN

SOUTH WOODS

# A MAP of Kenilworth

Incorporated as a Village  
Feb. 4, 1896.

TO CROSS POINT

THORSEN'S  
LIVERY STABLE

RICHMOND  
ROAD  
FOUNTAIN

KENILWORTH  
GROCERY STORE

C&N.W.  
STATION

MAHONEY  
FARM

SASSAFRAS  
ISLAND

GOLF  
COURSE

RUGBY  
SCHOOL

CHURCH OF  
HOLY COMFORTER

JOHN  
BENHAM

WARE  
MEMORIAL  
GARDEN

GUY F.  
GOSMAN

HENRY  
TAYLORS

ANNE HIGGINSON  
SPICER PATH

WARE  
MEMORIAL  
MONUMENT

KENILWORTH  
ASSEMBLY HALL

KENILWORTH  
HALL

JOHN Y.  
CALAHAN

W.D. H.H.  
SEARS

H.B.  
HALL

M.H. SPALDING

CHAS. S.  
SMITH

DR. RUFUS  
STOLP

INDIAN  
TRAIL

INDIAN  
TREE

WM. J.  
TAYLOR

DR. RUFUS  
STOLP

CUMNOR

ABBOTTSFORD

JOSEPH SEARS  
SCHOOL

NORTH  
WOODS

SKOKIE  
DITCH

LOG CABIN HOME OF  
ANTOINETTE OULMETTE,  
LIVED HERE IN 1830.

MELON  
PATCH

JOSEPH  
SEARS  
HOME

WATER  
TOWER

FRANK P.  
BURNHAM

PUMP  
HOUSE

BATHING  
BEACH

BOAT  
HOUSE

HOUSE HERE WHEN  
KENILWORTH WAS BUILT  
(STILL STANDING)

DR. CHAS.  
ADAMS

STONE  
GATES

JOHN  
BENHAM

JAS. B.  
CULBERTSON

JUDGE  
EASTMAN

A.V. MARTIN

WARWICK

ESSEX

NEW TRIER  
HIGH  
SCHOOL

GAS  
WORKS





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KENILWORTH, FIRST FIFTY YEARS. KENILWORT



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